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BULLETIN

OF THE

American Iris Society

April, 1931

IRISES IN CANADA.

No. 39 ✓

R. S. STURTEVANT, Editor

ELLA PORTER McKINNEY } Associate Editors
MRS. J. EDGAR HIRES }

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ARTHUR JOHN BLISS

1860-1931

On Tuesday, February 17, 1931, Arthur John Bliss passed away at his home at Tavistock, Devon, England. For over thirty years he had been interested in the scientific breeding of daffodils, gladiolus, and irises. That his work will be perpetuated in future generations of iris seedlings is but natural when we realize that Iris Dominion was but one among the many of his origination.

Through his irises Mr. Bliss was known to many; his garden was a Mecca to the iris world but few of our members know of his early influence in the American Iris Society. Some years before its actual organization Miss Sturtevant, Mrs. Dean, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Bliss had been in active correspondence as to standards of excellence and theories of heredity. It was only natural that with the advent of Mr. Wister and the gradual development of ideas of organization that Mr. Bliss should be consulted. Throughout the early years he was an active member of the Committee on Nomenclature, on Judging, and on Classification and it is from his many letters on these points that we hope to draw much of our text for a memorial bulletin.

A contact such as this, limited as it was in subject-matter, yet revealed much of the man himself, his simplicity and generosity of spirit, his eternal patience and wide tolerance for the foibles of others. That a love of one flower should foster such contacts places a hobby among the major influences that make for happiness.

May I express my sincere appreciation to Mrs. J. Edgar Hires for the idea of a bulletin devoted to irises in Canada and to Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan an even greater sense of obligation for his collection of notes from such varied sources? The bulletin may prove of interest to our Canadian friends but it will also offer much of value to our newer members who so frequently need a recommended list of the older but still fine varieties.—*Ed.*

NOTES ON IRIS IN CANADA

By F. CLEVELAND MORGAN, MONTREAL

When asked by Mrs. Hires to send her an article on growing Iris in Canada, I pondered on how I should go about it and finally decided to write to a number of enthusiasts in various parts of the country, asking them to give their personal experiences also and thus form a symposium of Canadian opinion which should prove of more value than that of any single individual. The replies received have been either incorporated in this article, where they are duly acknowledged, or if of sufficient length have been forwarded to Mrs. Hires as supplementary material.

There is no official Test Garden in the vicinity of Montreal, the nearest being at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and so it was with a feeling of relief that I heard from Professor Bunting that Macdonald College hoped to start a Test Garden next summer within the College grounds, which are situated three miles from my place. It is true they already maintain a considerable collection of Iris, but it is not so arranged as to make ready comparison possible nor have they attempted to include the newer introductions. With the flood of new introductions annually listed, one must be a specialist indeed to make oneself familiar with all their qualities and requirements. In my case, neither time, cash, nor space permit me to try more than a fraction of this output.

Of the Bearded Iris, I have grown over 300 varieties and maintain a collection of about 250 sorts, the balance being accounted for by death and discard. In addition to this I grow about 125 species and some two dozen varieties of Siberians. Among the Bearded Iris I think there is still much to be done with the Dwarf and Pumila class. We need cleaner whites, cleaner yellows and purer blues, though possibly I have overlooked some of the newer varieties. The type is beautiful enough and I find all bloom much more freely if the beds are re-made every three years. Among the newer Intermediates, I like Moonbeam and Sunbeam, two aptly named seedlings of the Murrell's. Aquamarine and Sapphire (Dykes) almost come within this class but are a little taller and flower a few days later. I plant them back of Zua, which is still in its prime when they come into bloom.

I am very fond of these smaller flowered varieties for garden purposes—such as Moonstone, White Knight, Celeste, Dawn, Mrs. Kingscote and especially Corrida. Many of these have been superseded as show flowers, but in the garden are much more in scale with neighboring plants than the big prize winners of Iris Shows; not that some of the bigger ones lack grace. In this respect I think Perry's varieties form a striking contrast to the Dominion race. Take Aphrodite, Duke of York, Lady Chas. Allom, Mary Gibson, Olympus and compare them with Duke of Bedford, Titan, Cardinal or Majestic. I like to have the former in my garden beds but prefer



Malus Zuni and Irises. F. Cleveland Morgan.

to admire the opulent magnificence of the latter in stately rows in my type garden.

I have always felt this lack of style in Lent A. Williamson, though grateful for its healthy bourgeois qualities. Ambassadeur, on the other hand, belongs to the noblesse—a fine pivotal flower to be surrounded by courtiers of lesser rank.

As I go around my Iris borders I am struck by the different personalities of the individual varieties. Poise, colour and form have much to do with it, I suppose. Some suggest, such as Fairy, Cygnet

and True Charm, pretty young ladies in first flush of youth. I see tall slender women in Ballerine, Princess Beatrice, Santa Barbara; stout but comely dowagers in Sir Michael and Majestic. These differences should be kept in mind in choosing partners for them in the garden or as cut flowers in the house. Some varieties should be examined indoors to appreciate the full beauty of their blended tones. This is particularly true of the French seedlings such as Igouf, Moliere and Mme. Chobaut. I never realized the beauty of Rialgar until I had seen it against a white wall. The golden yellow of the falls is so rich, one forgives the rather insipid standards. Argynnis, on the other hand, I prefer out of doors as the whole flower has a note of somberness which disappears under the warm light of sunshine. I have not tried Pluie d'Or yet but I like Gold Imperial, and better still, Sass's Prairie Gold. I flowered Indian Chief this season and found it very good. I have a seedling of similar colouring named Hochelaga—the Indian name for Montreal—which I hope will find its way into Iris gardens.

Among the whites, Mystic and White Queen have both proved good varieties.

I. Purissima, if it continues to flourish in this climate, will be a magnificent addition to our gardens.

I have always liked Lohengrin, but this is quite superseded by Rheingauperl which, to my mind, is one of the loveliest of all pinks. Dream and Wild Rose are excellent, too, and so is Susan Bliss. Mme. Cecile Bouscant has not bloomed in my garden but I think it an exquisitely lovely flower.

Mary Barnett is another perfect all around Iris in color, form and carriage. Of a darker blue, but nearly as beautiful, is Wedgwood with its prettily contrasting beard of white. Sorcerer is useful for its late flowering and is a fine blue bicolor.

Odorolor is good, too, with large blooms of a very pale mauve but is not as spectacular as Souv. de Loetitia Michaud. Though I have failed miserably with Santa Barbara, I still try to grow it as it is worth every effort. Indeed, I have not had much luck with a number of the Mohr-Mitchell seedlings, but Mr. McEachran, whose garden is close to my own, and I are importing French glass bells in an attempt to solve the problem of successfully flowering these Southerners.

I have been asked to say a word on Canadian seedlings, but very little systematic work has been done in Canada until the past year

or two. Professor Crow issued a report last year in the *Canadian Horticulturist* on some of the newer things, and a further letter from him will be published in this BULLETIN. Doctor Brethour, of Toronto, and Mr. Chadwick, of Winnipeg, have both produced good seedlings, some of which may prove of permanent value when further tested. Mr. H. H. Groff, of Simcoe, writes me that he has been hybridizing for several years on a large scale and hopes to have some first-class surprises for us in 1931. Good luck to him.

Around Montreal, Mr. Jackson Hopper, at Hudson Heights, and Mr. McEachran, at Cartierville, have well selected collections and have grown seedlings in a small way. Mr. Hopper's improved Lent A. Williamson and a blended yellow of Mr. McEachran's may prove important additions to our gardens.

I attach detailed reports from both these gentlemen.

My own seedlings have been fairly well covered in these and other letters in the BULLETIN. I would urge growers in Canada to devote more time and space to the Siberians. They are of iron-clad hardiness and will thrive in the coldest parts of the country without any particular care. I have many thousands of seedlings and in time hope to make some of them available to gardens. Miss Preston at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa has also been working with Siberians and some of her crosses have exceptional merit.

I now propose to very briefly report on the species *Iris* as tested in my own garden. Among the *Reticulatas* the type species does exceptionally well in the Rock Garden and comes into flower towards the end of April. The small bulbs tend to increase by offsets and the clumps should be lifted at least every five years or they will become overcrowded. I plant out the tiny bulbs left over in rows in the light sandy soil where they thrive and soon come to flowering size. *I. danfordiae* and *I. histrioides* are both beautiful species which will flower in May from newly imported bulbs. For some reason they do not bloom the following season as they evidently do not mature the bulbs, and I understand that even in Holland the growers experience the same difficulty.

Of the *Junos* I have grown *persica*, *bucharica* and *orchioides*. The first-named is none too certain in this climate but I have not tried lifting the bulbs in the summer months and replanting late in Autumn. This method succeeds well with the two other species which flower freely in May. Of the *Xiphium* group, *I. tingitana* winter kills with me and the "Spanish" *Iris* peter out after a year

or so. These and the "Dutch" require a hot dry sandy soil while the "English" prefer more moisture. They are perfectly hardy if given these conditions and increase fast. Reports from Murray Bay below Quebec confirm my own experience.

Of the *Evansia* group, *japonica* winter kills, and *tectorum* only survives if grown in raised rock pockets where it has perfect drainage. I have seen *japonica* doing beautifully in Bermuda and it thrives in certain parts of Vancouver Island. Fortunately its tiny relative *I. gracilipes* is perfectly hardy and is an ideal species for the Rock Garden. *I. Cristata*, its lovely white form and *I. lacustris* are also easy and good. They all do best in damp gravelly soil with some dappled shade to keep off the hot noonday sun.

I. dichotoma is a queer spindly Iris which comes readily from seed and should be treated as a biennial. It is only suited to a large rock garden or for the front of a border interplanted with some of the *Statice*, as its small purple flowers open in Autumn. In the great group of *Apogons*, we have a wide range to choose from.

I have already referred to the *Siberians*. We have to thank Perry in England and Mrs. Cleveland in the States for most of our fine varieties. Of the newer sorts I like *Sunnybrook*, *Dragonfly* and *Kingfisher Blue*, and though *Red Emperor* is rather dwarf its unique colouring makes it indispensable. I have crossed it and my own *Caesar* and have at least one promising seedling which is intermediate in character. I have a fine series of *Miss Preston's* hybrids under trial, and, as she has been working with somewhat different varieties, a further cross between her hybrids and my own should prove fruitful.

A whole group of *Chinese Iris* may be considered here: *bulleyana*, *delavayi*, *clarkei*, *chrysographes*, *forrestii* and *wilsonii*. They are all quite hardy but need rather more moisture than do the *Siberians*. They all come readily from seed and have been freely crossed by Perry and others. These hybrids are very good and rather more free flowering than the species. Among the numerous named crosses *Jenkinsii* might be picked as one of the best. Allied to these *Chinese* species is the American *I. prismatica*. It is a delicately beautiful little Iris for the Bog Garden. The *Spurias* form an important subsection of the *Apogons* and contain some outstanding plants for the garden. *I. aurea* is a handsome species with deep yellow flowers, and *ochroleuca* is even taller with ivory-toned blooms. These, when crossed, produced the fine hybrid known as

Shelford Giant. *I. monnieri* is similar, but its hybrid Monspur has pretty blue flowers. Its other parent, *I. spuria*, is very variable but is usually a blue purple in colour. *I. halophila* is not worth growing as the flowers are small and dingy but *I. graminea* has a charm of its own though in a quiet unspectacular way. The small flowers are



Iris Sibirica, Grandis. F. Cleveland Morgan.

Note the beauty of texture in the contrast of Hosta and Iris.

half hidden in a dense tuft of handsome foliage but they are of a pleasing colour and numerous enough to make a good display. It is best to grow it on a raised ledge in the Rock Garden so that the flowers may be seen to better advantage. All of these plants are perfectly hardy and do well in full sun in ordinary garden soil.

A number of small Iris from the Western States may next be discussed. These nearly all demand an acid, sandy soil and at best cannot be called easy in this climate.

I cannot speak with any degree of authority on their hardiness, but I have grown *tenax*, *tenuis* and *douglasiana* for several years with fair success in sand, humus and gravel.

You will read more about them in the letters from British Columbia, which Messrs. Simpson and Berkely have contributed. *I. gormanii* which Mr. Berkeley mentions has been tried several times in my garden in various locations but has never survived the winter. It is a pity as, when I first saw it in bloom in Mr. Clarence Lown's garden, at Poughkeepsie, I thought it an exceptionally charming flower. *I. longipetala* and its hybrid Tollong are pleasant easily grown Iris with white and lavender flowers of good size. *I. missouriensis* is similar but of smaller habit and *I. ensata* is an Asiatic representative of the group. They all do well in full sun in ordinary garden soil.

Iris verna, from the Southern States, is a pretty little species which is not altogether easy to satisfy. I have tried to imitate the conditions under which I have found it growing near Aiken: namely, in a strongly acid, sandy soil among open pine woods. Nevertheless, it stubbornly sulks with me and rarely flowers.

Iris setosa is a neat little native of this province and of the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland. It is also found in Alaska and its disappearance in the country between is accounted for by an ice thrust during the Glacial Epoch. It grows on beaches with its roots among the wet gravel and is distinguished by the almost complete disappearance of the standards. The native *I. versicolor* will grow under all conditions from dry sand to swamp, but naturally thrives best with considerable moisture. It has a number of named varieties which offer no particular difficulty under cultivation. In recent years Doctor Small, of the Bronx Park, has described a number of species which have been found in the Southern States. Details can be found in *Addisonia* where the descriptions are accompanied by excellent coloured plates. I obtained roots of two of them from the Bronx in 1929, namely, *I. vinicolor* and *I. savanarum*. Both came through the winter of 1930 with only a slight covering of leaves. They are planted in a stony, peat mixture which is watered from below (Moraine) during the summer months. Neither bloomed the first season but both have made good growth.

I have since obtained, through the kindness of Mrs. Peckham, roots of all the other species and await with interest the effect our winter has upon them.

Iris foliosa and the hybrids *fulvala* and *D. K. Williamson* do very well and Mr. Berry has kindly sent me his "Cacique" for trial. They make excellent cut flowers for table decoration as the curiously twisted stems of *I. foliosa* never show to the same advantage out of doors. The European *I. pseudacorus* has become naturalized at Murray Bay, Quebec and along the rivers of the far distant Okanagan Valley, British Columbia.

Iris minuta, that wee gem from the Orient, is quite hardy and will thrive if left alone. It seems to resent the too frequent dividing which the generous minded gardener is called upon to undertake by urgent requests for it.

Japanese Iris, if given proper treatment, present no difficulty. My father had a magnificent show of them for many years until the colony was decimated by musk-rats who seem fond of the roots. They grew along the edge of a natural pond which flooded its banks every spring. By autumn after flowering, the beds received a thorough sun baking and so matured the roots again.

In the *Oncocyclus* section, I have only tried *Susiana*. It stands our cold readily enough and flowers the next season but refuses to mature its bulbous root even if lifted during the summer months. It may be that growth in spring starts too early and thus it gets caught by subsequent frosts. Foster's hybrids, such as *Parvar* and *Paracina*, are hardy but more curious than beautiful.

The *Regelias* and *Regelio-cylus* are easily managed if lifted and stored in sand in flats during the late summer months. The flats are placed in the greenhouse next the glass to ensure a thorough baking. The roots are then planted again in light sandy soil towards the end of October. I am trying colonies in plots this year and using small sash frames to see if this will avoid the trouble of lifting and replanting.

To sum up the result of our symposium. It would appear that the great majority of Iris may be successfully grown in almost all parts of Canada, from east to west. How far north one could go remains to be seen but cold is not a serious factor with many of the choicest Bearded Iris as I have grown them in the Laurentians, where the temperature falls to 35 below zero.

The Mesopotamica and Ricardii derivatives and most of the Mohr-Mitchell seedlings can be grown in many sections if particular attention is paid to drainage and perhaps to spring frosts.

What we need in Canada are more Test Grounds distributed throughout the country where only the outstanding varieties of both Bearded, Siberian and species Iris may be found. We need a Garden Club of Canada to foster these and other schemes; to encourage the founding of local clubs, and to act as a clearing house for information on garden matters.

With a big country and a small population, we have done something but it is well for us to realize that we have only touched the fringe of garden adventure.

IRISES IN THE VICINITY OF TORONTO

By MRS. M. P. WALLACE

The very wide-spread interest in the Iris both in England and America is of comparatively recent development, but there have been Iris enthusiasts in Toronto for more than twenty-five years. I remember my astonishment when I found, on coming to Canada in 1906, that a member of the University of Toronto staff had twenty different varieties of Iris in a small city garden. Up to that time I had always supposed that there were only three kinds of "flags," yellow, blue, and white. That such ignorance still persists, I discovered two years ago in Monterey, California, where I met an Iris lover who saved every penny she could spare from the necessities of life to buy new Irises. I peeped over a garden fence at a wonderful riot of roses, peonies, delphiniums, and especially Irises and exclaimed with delight over an immense clump of *Souv. de Mme. Gandichau*. A woman working in the garden cried, "Oh, do come in. I never saw any one who knew the names of Irises before. After my committing a really wicked extravagance to buy that rhizome, no one looks at it twice, and they call it a 'blue flag.'"

I think it was in 1915 that I first saw *Alcazar*, *Crusader* and *Cherubim*, and was told by the owner of the garden,—a man who lived in a boarding house and earned the right to a bit of ground where he could grow Irises by caring for the perennial borders at a golf club, that in a few years, no one would grow the old fashioned small Irises because in France and England they were developing plants of such size, and height, and beauty of color and form, as we

did not dream of. A year or two after that, my friend of the city garden sent to Vilmorin for Ambassadeur, Ballerine, Moliere, Isoline, Oriflamme, Cluny, Medrano, and Magnifica, and since that time, his generosity and enthusiasm has led an increasing number of his colleagues and friends to make Iris collections of their own. In our small garden, in borders some one hundred and twenty feet in length by five or six feet in width, in addition to thirty Peonies and hundreds of Tulips, Daffodils, and smaller bulbs,



Delicatissima at Meadowvale, Ont.

we grow, pretty successfully, one hundred and forty different kinds of Iris, several favorites being repeated throughout the borders.

Most of my friends give Irises the same sort of cultivation,—deeply dug, well enriched soil, preferably a sandy loam to start out with, and the addition of a certain amount of bone meal, wood-ashes, sheep manure, and lime now and again. So far as I know, there is no winter protection beyond what is given by the leaves of the plants, except when small. Single rhizomes are planted in the fall, when they are covered with soil more deeply than they would be under other circumstances. Some advise cutting down to two inches and burning every bit of foliage before growth starts in the spring, as a protection against the Iris borer. Personally, I have never discovered the dreaded beast and have had very little trouble with rot, though we do occasionally cut out a soft spot and dust it with flour of sulphur. The chief attention our Irises get is during the freezing and thawing period when they need to be carefully watched and firmed from time to time, so that the roots will not be injured by heaving. We have never lost an Iris which has been given a fair chance. Occasionally, when plants have arrived too late to allow growth to start before winter came on, or when they have been improperly potted, we have had losses, but even those have been very few. Sometimes an Iris has been slow in getting established, though I must confess that they generally make up for it royally afterward.

The *Regelio-Cyclus* varieties have by no means invariably done well. I feel sure, if they were handled as the books recommend, *i.e.*, given sharply drained, well mounded-up beds, treated to a generous amount of mortar rubble, they would delight us regularly, as they do even now on occasion.

We have one advantage in Canada, at least, over those Americans who are enthusiastic about the English and French Irises. In that we can import without restriction, and there is no duty. Comparatively few people do import direct, however, though it is a very little trouble, merely the request for government permit and a letter to the dealer. The cost is always much less, often a mere fraction of what is asked for them on this side of the water. The trouble is that they invariably arrive in a completely dormant condition, usually in October, too late to be sure that they will live if planted in the garden. Without facilities for potting and a cool greenhouse, they are by no means sure to survive, and at best they come on

slowly. It is much more satisfactory to first see the flower in bloom and then plant it immediately after the blooming period is over.

We are unfortunate in the vicinity of Toronto in that we have no test garden as yet, though we hope to have one in the not-far-distant future, and there are no dealers who carry the very newest, most expensive introductions. Personally, I have been fortunate in ordering Irises which I have not seen, largely because I can trust implicitly the judgment of Miss Blacklock, Miss Sturtevant, and Mrs. Pattison. If any one of those women says that an Iris is indispensable, I know that I want it. Of course, it would mean a great deal to see each Iris in bloom before one ordered, but that we cannot do. An Iris Society was started here some years ago, but it never amounted to anything, and our horticultural shows are chiefly for the benefit of the florists.



At "Meadowvale," Ont.

The people who suffer most are those who are attempting to develop good seedlings. Dr. Brethour, of Toronto, has had remarkable success with his seedlings, but only one of his Irises, Alice Aileen, a beautiful silvery blue, is in commerce, because he is too conscientious to introduce something which may have been superseded already. It is a pity that such scruples are not more common on our side of the Atlantic. The Frenchmen have a capacity for careful selection which is almost religious in its austerity. One feels that M. Cayeux would about as soon commit theft or even

murder as produce an unworthy Iris. In spite of the fact that we in Toronto have not seen Blue Velvet, Pink Satin, Purissima, San Francisco or Dauntless; though we may only imagine the glories of Zaharoon, King Solomon, Melchior, Jason, Evolution, Nêne, Vert-Galant, and Yves Lassailly, we can see W. R. Dykes, Mrs. Valerie West, and Pluie D'Or, and in our own gardens grow Santa Barbara, Louis Bel, Loetitia Michaud, Cecile Bouscant, Micheline Charraire, Sensation, Labor, Ophelia, Marquisette, Glorïae, Romola, and many others.

The suggestions for effective planting given in Mr. Sturtevant's articles in the Iris Bulletin are so admirable and so all inclusive, that there doesn't seem to be much point in my discussing the question, but I would like to make a plea for choosing Irises which will extend the blooming period as long as possible, even if the very earliest and the latest are not the most absolutely beautiful. I have found Iris reticulata and the Persian forms delightful additions to the early bulb displays, and the Early Dwarfs, Azurea, Marocain, and Orange Queen are very satisfactory. Of Intermediates, I would not be without the old Florentina, Cretan, Firmament, Istria, Kochii, Purple King, Primavera, Soledad, Zua, and best beloved of all, Zwanenburg. If one can coax the Regio-Cyclus hybrids to bloom, they are fascinating, especially Charon, Hera, Psyche, and Saturnus. The same treatment will often succeed with the lovely Hoogiana, Stolonifera, and Susiana, and generous plantings of Dutch and Spanish Irises may be undertaken annually, they are so cheap and so beautiful. Personally, I am very fond of the Siberian Irises, and Mrs. Cleveland's recent introductions are improving them.

The chief secret of effective Iris planting was given me by Miss Sturtevant: "Use a great many yellows and plenty of whites." Long ago I discovered that yellow tulips were indispensable, but I hadn't realized that miracles could be wrought by a generous admixture of yellow Irises until I read her article. Happily one may have lovely yellows at reasonable price. I recommend the following from personal experience; Shekinah, Chalice, Colias, Flutterby, and for those who will endure variegatas (they will miss much who rule them out), Knysna, Marsh Marigold, Flammenschwert, Citronella, and Rialgar. No one who follows this advice can fail to be delighted with the result.

PETERBORO'S IRIS GARDENS

J. H. CALLANDER

The value of the Iris as a garden subject is annually becoming more generally recognized in Canada. Extensively grown and commented upon at the Dominion Central Experimental Farm, at Ottawa, information as to the hardiness and adaptability to the Canadian climate of the hundreds of varieties tested is broadcast all over the Dominion to a large mailing list and to any who request the booklets on this subject, which are free. Unquestionably this wide-spread publicity has had much to do with the growing popularity of Irises of the better class.

In that part of Ontario immediately surrounding Peterboro, with a climate very similar to that of Ottawa, there has been found no difficulty in growing Irises quite successfully. The winter does not appear to affect them in any way, unless the fairly severe frost has something to do with the almost entire freedom from disease in this locality.

Over two hundred carefully selected standard varieties have been introduced here by the writer and the old pale creams and common blues have been replaced largely by Irises of real merit.

Peterboro's Parks are controlled by a Parks Committee chairman who is very partial to the Iris. His request to the Central Experimental Farm for a supply of Irises to beautify the perennial borders he is establishing in the Parks, and at spare corners around the city, met with a generous response. Our public gardens will soon be resplendent with a fine assortment of these lovely spring flowers, so rapidly gaining popularity here.

While the \$10.00 to \$20.00 new introductions have been conspicuous by their absence, we have been quite content to admire the rich coloring of Ambassadeur, Imperator, Archeveque, Lent A. Williamson, Alcazar, Perfection, Monsignor, Medrano, Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau; the delicate tints of Isoline, Shekinah, Lord of June, Dream, Lohengrin, Quaker Lady, Dalmarius; the striking duo colored Dalila, Darius, Fro, Iris King, Loreley, Mithras, Navajo, Thorbecke and so many others that one does not know when to stop. Varieties enjoyed for the first time last spring

(1930) were Anna Farr, Duke of York, Lord Lambourne, Mother of Pearl, Ophelia, Seminole, Troost, and a few others. For the coming spring we expect to see many others, among them Auburn, Jeannette Dean, Mary Gibson, Mildred Presby, Reverie, Susan Bliss, Zilia, Nestor, Morning Splendor, Kansas, Midgard, Brilliant, Dominion, Glowing Embers and Prairie Gold. Naturally, we are waiting impatiently for the return of spring, which as I write is making itself felt, shrinking the snow and bringing the grass and shrubs in sight once more.

The writer has found that field cultivation is far from being as effective as good garden care by hand. Customers have taken plants home and by giving thorough hand digging have produced plant and bloom immeasurably superior to what the field grown parent roots bore under field cultivation. In the field a good deep cultivation with a hand wheel hoe is given the first thing in the spring while the soil is still moist enough to work. This is followed, as the soil becomes tramped, by a hand forking, turning over all soil close up to the roots. Again, following the next good rain, another wheel hoe cultivation is given. Between these attempts to keep the soil loose the rows are gone over by hand, using a long bladed knife to get below the crowns of dandelions, seed of which is freely supplied by our neighbors. The crop of bloom is usually abundant after this amount of work, but is not equal in size or quality to the Irises grown by customers near by.

For fertilizer bone flour is used about every second year, and once a good coating of air slaked lime was spread over the entire surface. This system of fertilization was not studied out and adopted because of personal experimentation, but was taken from the experience of a grower who was kind enough to tell of it as a proven system, in her annual catalogue. It has been followed for several years and seems to be a safe way of feeding these plants.

This article has not been written with the idea of imparting information—which the writer would not presume to offer to the veterans of the American Iris Society—but just a little bit of Iris history from a very amateur district that may be heard from later when the Iris family has been brought up to date.

IRIS GROWING IN WESTERN ONTARIO

W. E. SAUNDERS

Enthusiasm for a genus of plants very frequently has its origin in some fortuitous circumstance and, perhaps, the accident of a correspondence. Connection with the house of Vilmorin Andrieux et Cie has been the direct cause of the early popularity of the bearded Iris in this part of Canada. Originally, of course, the Irises of the garden were Mme. Chereau, Amas, Honorable and such, but when Vilmorin put out Alcazar, Isoline and Eldorado about 1900 they were promptly obtained, and soon after that time the writer was commissioned by the local Horticultural Society to import premiums for the members in the form of Iris roots. On sending the order to Vilmorin we found that we were most generously treated and we received some thousands of roots, including some of the above named novelties; for the originators had evidently a good stock and in those days there was no such market for Iris novelties as exists at the present time. As a result some five hundred gardeners in London received four or five roots of Iris. There is probably a greater stock of Isoline in London today than in many places of much greater size. The fine flowers that followed this importation impelled local growers to scan the Vilmorin catalogue with care, and when Ambassadeur, Ballerine and Magnifica were introduced many prompt orders went over for them, though the price of \$2.00 per root, at which they were introduced, was a high one for those days.

The nursery of Bertrand Farr was also laid under contribution, and when Wallace and Co. made the first offering of the new Bliss varieties further orders went across the water, joined this time by one sent by the late James S. Wallace, of Toronto, from whose batch of seedlings from Lord of June and Sweet Lavender came the Iris bearing his name, which is like a larger Lady Foster. With the order from Wallace and Co. came Diadem, Dimity, Dusky Maid, Dominion and other Irises of the highest grade that have had a great influence on the local standards of this flower.

In later years new and fine stock has been drawn from Orpington, Cayeux, Millêt and others, as well as from the American

hybridizers. Not all of the Ricardi varieties prosper as they do in California and other southern localities.

In Ontario there are a number of good collections of named varieties. A few of them belong to public institutions, such as the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, Ste. Anne de Bellevue (which sounds like Quebec, but, by a narrow margin is in Ontario) and the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph; with many private collections at Toronto, Hamilton and London. The collection of Dr. F. G. Brethour, of Toronto, has been fertile in the production of good seedlings, some of them being quite well known. Miss Blacklock, of Meadowvale, has also put out some charming varieties.

From London the cult of the Iris has spread around and now this section of Ontario has many gardeners who make Irises their specialty. The climate of Ontario seems very well suited to the needs of the tall bearded Iris, there being a good depth of snow as a rule, while the summers are usually not too wet. The members of the regelio-cyclus section do much better when taken up and kept dry in the attic from July until October, and some recent experiences with bucharica indicate a preference for the same treatment.

The varieties that succeed in the lower Ontario district are legion. London lies on the same parallel of latitude as Port Huron, Buffalo, Rochester and Boston; the elevation is 800 feet, and the winter temperature does not go below 30 degrees—indeed does not often touch 20 degrees below zero. Therefore, all of the pallidas and most other varieties find conditions to their liking. Such varieties as Amber, Aphrodite, Dominion, Fra Angelico, Le Corregge, Souv. de Loetitia Michaud, Marquisette, Mme. Henri Cayeux, Mlle. Schwartz and Shekinah grow with abandon and flower freely, but some kinds, with perhaps a greater proportion of tenderness, while they live from year to year, are very apt to miss flowering quite frequently. Among these are to be found Fismes (a great favorite), J. B. Dumas, Kashmir White, Micheline Charraire with the unrivalled perfume, Mme. Cecile Bouscant and Mme. Durrand, whose colors charm everyone. Other tender varieties are under test; some have died and will be tried again, though Canada can never hope to grow *all* the named varieties, particularly if the present flood keeps coming.

Canadian breeders have been very chary in the naming of new seedlings which most of us think is better than placing a name on

every seedling which shows any merit at all. It is, of course, impossible that every raiser of seedlings should have seen every variety that competes with his own pets for a "place in the sun" and we must therefore expect to have introductions that are too close together, and many of them unworthy. Time will weed them out.

With a foundation stock secured from the best sources in the world it is rather surprising that more has not been done in the way of raising seedlings but not only was this feature a long time in starting but, even now, there are few gardeners who grow many of their own. The late S. Frank Wood developed great enthusiasm in that respect and expressed himself to the writer as desiring no better fate than to have a whole acre of nothing but his own. Among those of his raising there are some of the very highest excellence though none have been introduced. His No. 426 is so much superior to Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau and along the same lines that no one would want the older kind when he had plenty of No. 426. "Mrs. Francis Wood" was named before he even saw Queen Caterina, or the former Drapeau of Vilmorin, and is of exactly the same shade, and a most beautiful flower.

Among the very early bulbous sorts, *reticulata* does so well in some gardens that it is treated as a weed and is given no attention at all, while *histrioides*, considered to be a variety of the same species, dies out with disheartening regularity.

The regimen for the *regelio-cyclus* hybrids has been rigorously adhered to by E. M. S. Dale in London, with the result that he usually has flowers by the hundred. Other growers, following the same methods, have fair success.

Any mention of the genus from this Province would be incomplete without reference to *lacustris*, which grows in enormous quantities along the east shore of Lake Huron from Southampton northward, and probably occurs on Manitoulin Island also. Along these shores one may find such profuse flowering of this dainty species that it is difficult to place one's feet on the ground without crushing them. Last June my friend, Dr. P. J. Scott, of Southampton surprised me with a small package of the "White Variety" which, though it was to be expected had never been reported to me, nor had I found it on the few occasions when I had visited its haunts. Two days spent in that region in June would be a joy, particularly if some member of our Society would volunteer to

hold down a spare seat in the car for the occasion. Near lacustris I have found *pinguicula*, *cyripedium arietinum* (and an abundance of the four common Lady Slippers), *houstonia purpurea*, *tofieldia*, *zygadenus*, and the two primulas, *farinosa* and *mistassinica*, these species combining to make the region a very attractive one to any one botanically inclined. Back from the lake is much territory that is suitable for orchida, and which contains many beautiful and interesting species.

Cristata is whimsical, but *kaempferi* does excellently for those who provide plenty of food and water. The Spanish, English and Dutch scarcely ever persist but peter out after one year of good bloom. *Aurea*, *ochroleuca*, *spuria*, *longipetala*, *sibirica* and their crosses grow luxuriantly and flower to perfection. *Foliosa* and *Fulvala* also do well but the southern and California groups have not been successful as far as known to the writer.

Some years ago, while on a visit south of Calgary, Alberta, within sight of the Rocky Mountains, I was amazed to find that the garden Irises, instead of showing more or less fungus disease, as with ours at London, carried every leaf clean, clear and vigorous; and this was in October. The summer, in our western prairie Provinces, is usually quite dry, and the condition appears to suit these plants very well; so well in fact that I am tempted to wonder if the *regelio-cyclus* will not thrive and flourish in the open without any further attention than is given to other inhabitants of the garden. This is a matter that should have been settled before but it will be tested soon. If the surmise turns out to be correct, the prairies would have one very great advantage over the moister climate of the east.

In the same garden Peony roots had utterly failed to grow and were limp and flaccid for lack of moisture. One was almost lost in amazement at the hardness of flowering plants that seem to be utterly careless of a climate where the temperature in winter will go below zero in the night and, with a warm wind—called a Chinook—coming in the morning, will rise to fifty degrees above before sunset, and remain warm for a week or more. In the east we strive for equability in the winter conditions of our gardens, and place covering over them in the effort to prevent rapid change, but the Irises in this Alberta garden had wintered without any care whatever, showing what they can do when given a chance.

IRIS IN MANITOBA

L. T. CHADWICK

A request from Mrs. Hires for a description of the garden with special reference to Iris, is the reason for this contribution.

It is perhaps rather a pity that we are not in the habit of taking notes about the flowers, but it has always been a mystery to me how anybody, doing their own gardening, finds time for anything else, so this contribution will, of necessity, be from memory.

After all, that is probably the best way as memory appears to permanently record the good things, and tends to sift out the bad; if this were not so, catalogues in the Spring would not be so much in evidence.

As private gardens go in Manitoba, ours would be considered quite big—three or four acres counting grass and what is left of the original bush. We grow most things that can be grown here sufficiently well to give pleasure, but have no desire to produce the only one of its kind in the Province.

I doubt very much whether the poet who wrote:—"A garden is a lovesome thing" ever carved one out of the bush in the Red River Valley. Our garden is far too vigorous to be described as "lovesome," and we have too much respect for its ability to grow sturdy weeds and its magnetic power to attract to the beds foraging tree roots from vast distances to ever even think of it in such a tender manner; in fact, we have a very wholesome respect for its ability to keep one on the jump.

There are only four months of gardening weather in Manitoba, from the middle of May to the middle of September, but in these four months is packed a full gardening year. Long and continuous sunlight is the reason for our wonderful growth, and one never can be quite certain if the sunflowers turn back again to meet the rising sun or go straight on turning to save time.

The Iris is a most satisfactory flower for Manitoba, in fact, in the writer's opinion, the *most* satisfactory, although it is questionable if any one else shares the same opinion. Most people here appear to think that *flags* are all one colour and have a very brief flowering period, and generally, visitors who see our Iris in flower, have

such poor soil and such exposed positions that explanations are apt to be regarded as contradictions.

Speaking of soil, Iris like good fare, and a three or four year old Dahlia bed is an ideal situation. Lime does not appear to be necessary or desirable in this soil; continual sunshine is essential, and the more water they get in the growing season, the better they are. A description of the situation of the garden will probably indicate more clearly the conditions under which the Iris grow than would any inferences I could draw of their likes and dislikes.

The garden is on a projection of land, surrounded on three sides by the Red River, which, except for a short time in April, just after the ice has gone out, lies some thirty or forty feet below the normal ground level; drainage therefore is perfect. The point was originally covered with trees, many of considerable size for this part of the world, carpeted with hazel, dogwood, many kinds of willow, high bush cranberry, wild plum and thorns, the rather heavy clay soil being covered therefore with a heavy layer of leaf mould. As the bush and trees that were not required were cleared, the paths were stripped of the top soil, which was thrown on the beds to be, leaving them several inches higher than the paths which thus draw off all surplus water in the Spring. This, in spite of the good natural drainage, is most essential, because, in addition to the heavy covering of snow for several months, the ground freezes several feet in depth, with the result that the melting snow cannot penetrate, and unless means are contrived to take away the surplus water, it would lie on the beds, and alternately freeze and thaw with of course fatal results to any perennial plant.

The Summers are dry, depending chiefly on thunder-storms' rains, and our plants may be described as going into cold storage from the beginning of November to about the end of March; hence we are enabled to use considerably more natural fertilizer than would be possible in a country with a long wet Winter.

Spring is the bad time, especially for Iris of tender blood, and as a rule the best-looking Iris in the late Fall is apt to be in the worst condition about blooming time.

As soon as the warm weather is over for the year, we cover our Iris beds with a quite heavy coating of leaves raked up from the lawns and paths. It is customary to recommend waiting until the ground is well frozen before applying any Winter cover, but here heavy snow often comes before the ground is frozen, and a cover-

ing over the top of 8 to 12 inches of snow is difficult to apply effectively; also the protection itself, unless previously collected and stored, would be covered, and we have no facilities for storing vast quantities of leaves, nor in fact time to do it. A few years ago, acting on the theory that leaves might press too closely on the crowns of the plants, we held this covering away with light brush, and made a glorious Winter home for mice and moles who had a Roman feast for months on end, and the pick of our Iris went West.

Towards the end of March, the snow disappears, and we begin to get warm days, but usually frost at night. The protection is kept on as long as possible, not allowing, however, the Iris to grow underneath, so that by the middle of April, it is usual for the beds to be clear.

The following weeks are the ones to cause trouble with *cypriana*, *Riccardi*, or *mesopotamica*, first generation seedlings, not that the plants will necessarily be killed, but the buds will be affected, unless precautions have been taken.

Immediately after flowering is unquestionably the best time to transplant Iris in this country.

Fall planting is not recommended for imported stock, as usually, unless conditions are very favorable, the plants will be heaved out by frost. Moving in the garden can be done quite successfully in the Fall, if the plants are well watered.

A brief description of some of the varieties grown will probably give a rough idea of the Iris most suitable for this locality.

Blue-Toned.

Duke of York, *Jacqueline Guillot*, and *Marjorie Tinley* are of much the same effect in the garden, and appear to do equally well. *Simon Vaissiere*—more of a bicolor, and not quite so easy to the eye. *Ann Page*—of perfect form and finish though not very tall, and *Corrida*, the indispensable, are the outstanding Iris in the light blue tones, unless *Asia* is included in this class, when, even with its outstanding faults of not carrying very well, and stalk not always strong enough for the weight of bloom, it still remains one of the greatest Iris. Last year, fifteen or sixteen spikes of great height, and rigid as canes for a change, gave a wonderful display, and also, which is rather unusual, set seed for me. I should like to include *Santa Barbara*, *El Capitan*, and *Conquistador* in this class, but cannot claim they will give masses of bloom, and usually their height

is affected by Spring frosts. The two former, when at their best, are probably without peers in this class, the first for form, the latter for color and size. *Conquistador* is fine, but far finer as a parent, and we have now some descendants with more than their share of good qualities, and apparently quite hardy. Also, *El Capitan* progeny promises well.

Of the deeper blue-toned, *Mme. Gaudichau* is still at the top, even though she does at times look a little bit hipped. *Germaine Perthuis* has never been as good, and not nearly so robust. *Lent A. Williamson* and *Prospero* are very similar at first, but *Lent A.* fades, and *Prospero* is just a little bit dull. *Dominion* and *Duke of Bedford* probably come in this class, but apart from color and, of course, substance, they are not very outstanding and are slow to become established, which probably accounts for them not appearing very hardy. *Sir Michael*, *Pioneer* and *Majestic* have yet to make history. I have a little 18-inch *Dominion* colour seedling of *Romany*, which is all that could be desired in its class, and some four-foot *Conquistador* seedlings, which are distinct assets in this color.

Pink and Red-Toned.

Romola is the one Iris approved of by every visitor; tall, large, well-branched, free flowering, hardy, just about perfect. *Frieda Mohr*, on her day, which does not come very often, is quite unbeatable. *Mary Gibson* and *Mme. Cheri*—very much alike, the latter not quite as hardy as one would like. *Evadne*—an ideal landscape flower, glorious in large clumps. I have a seedling something like *Evadne*, but without the metallic sheen. The fall of *Troost*, and the beard of *Shrewsbury* sounds rather queer, but it is a most effective little thing. Mr. Morgan's *Hochelaga*—a fine Iris, a bright coppery rose of good size and height; *Susan Bliss* quite the best near-pink we have of height, and somewhat similar in colour though lower and larger; *Rheingauperl* with its sweet woodruff scent; *Magnifica* I suppose would also come in this group, if one could admit anything for size alone; however, *Magnifica* will seed, and we have one pink descendant that promises to be more than fair; *Troost* is a distinct asset and carries a long way and even Mrs. Alan Gray planted near *Inglesomb's Yellow Tulips*, *Narcissus* (*Poeticus Ornatus*—the only ones growing in Manitoba as far as I know) and purple violas keeps one's interest until the real Iris

begin. Last, but by no means least, *Sweet Lavender*—not an up-to-date lady and not shining well in a crowd, but the kind one likes to have around the home all the time. Sweet Lavender is not a very good seeder, but appears to pass on its beautiful form, and plicata descendants are worth while.

Red Purple and Bronze.

There is danger of getting too many of this type, presumably owing to the practically universal use of Dominion derivations for crossing. So far, with the exception of *Romola*, I have not used them much, but now that I have hardy mesopotamica stock, I shall be tempted to try for a little extra substance. The best we have in the garden is undoubtedly *Ambassadeur*, which, so far, has not produced seedlings better, or even as good, as itself, though one cross with *Blue Boy* appears to have opened up a field that may bring results. After *Ambassadeur* (leaving out Dominions) come *Morning Splendor* and *Imperator*, although I think *Seminole* is the best for garden work. *Esplendido* is of somewhat lighter tone, and appears to be the hardiest of the first generation mesopotamica. *Medrano* is also well worth growing and being of plicata parentage, gives some very interesting seedlings. *Cardinal*, *Bruno*, *Mrs. Valerie West* and *Député Nomblot* have yet to win their spurs.

Yellow and Near Yellows.

Of the pure tones, *Primrose*, *Gold Imperial* and *Amber* are the best, if measured from usual Iris standards, but none of them give a better effect in the garden than *Virginia Moore* and *Colias* for the same purpose is very good. *Gaviota* and several *Dawn* seedlings, of somewhat the same general colour, while not perhaps rating very high, have a very telling effect in mass, and are individually perfect, though small. In the blended yellow section, we have very few of note. *Mme. Durand* will not thrive. *Don Quixote* appears hardy but the stem will not support the bloom which is, however, very fine. *Mons. Arnal* is sufficiently hardy to cause no trouble and is a very beautiful Iris, in the same class as Sweet Lavender in reference to loud company, but a very intriguing flower of fine form and substance. *Ophelia* has never come up to expectations, but *Ochracea* is most desirable when in good form. Two very fine plants that may be classed with the above are *Delacroix* and *Detaille*, the latter being especially fine, viewed from a little distance. The variegatas proper are not very popular. *Marsh*

Marigold and a seedling (Knysna \times Montezuma) a duplicate, but taller, being probably the best, although personally I think *Romany* in large masses in the sun is exquisite.

So far, we have no good whites of size that appear to thrive here. *Argentina* is too tender and *Shasta*, while it blooms, does not live up to its reputation. *White Knight* is quite the best, and I have a few, derived from Dawn \times Shekinah \times plicata that are good garden plants, but small.

SEEDLING IRISES OF THE HIGH PLAINS

L. T. CHADWICK

As I promised, I am writing a very brief description of a few seedlings, together with a justification for growing them, if that is necessary.

If ever there was a legitimate excuse for amateur iris breeding, it can be claimed for the people interested in iris, and residing on the Canadian prairies. In the first place, there are very few iris growers, and opportunities for visiting iris gardens of any note are non-existent; in the second place, while many new iris are introduced every year, and while it is reasonably possible with care to select the best, breeders do not generally give the parentage of their introductions, and the cost of trying all the things that sound good is too excessive, not that reasonably tender iris will not live here, but they are so liable to get a set-back in the Spring, that they cannot be depended on to give the large quantity of bloom one naturally desires. As there is very little probability of large iris breeders changing their methods for a very few, the only satisfactory answer is to breed your own.

As far as I am able to judge, the tender species, *cypriana*, *Ricardi*, *mesopotamica*, and *trojana* have three vital factors to contribute, *i.e.*, height, size, and branching, but not beauty. It is not my intention to claim that it is necessary to have these three factors in all iris, still it is essential to have a certain percentage of plants in which they are combined, to make a complete garden picture, and after all, most people want iris for the garden, and not for the show.

If my experiments in breeding are worth anything, it seems quite possible to obtain perfectly hardy plants retaining most of the desirable before-mentioned species' characteristics in two, or

at most three generations, and while the first few years, in the absence of scientific knowledge or data, are somewhat laborious and disappointing, one does gain experience which is valuable for future work. Of course, in addition to all this, the work is extremely fascinating, and I am gradually producing large iris that share with us an appreciation of our glorious, although it must be acknowledged somewhat cold, winters.

For years I have been working towards this end without, I must confess, much thought outside my own garden. I have received great encouragement and help from Professor Mitchell, of Berkeley, whose kindly hints and suggestions, dropped as though by accident, and the gift of plants that have *something in them*, all with a refreshing modesty that is strange in this new world, have been of great value to me.

I have not been fortunate enough to grow many Canadian seedlings, apart from my own. You sent me the only ones I have some years ago. Unfortunately, Mount Royal was not included, but No. 28, which has, I believe, since been named Hochelaga, is of outstanding merit; a tall upstanding well-branched plant, with large coppery-rose blooms quite unique in my garden for color. You also sent me a Siberian cross, called Caesar, which I consider perfect in its class.

I cross everything that looks promising. If the result seems good, I keep on. If not, it is quite easy to forget all about it. The results, so far, are very satisfactory to me.

The largest, and perhaps finest, seedlings are :

No. 343—Conquistador × Gaudichau

Quite a number of these all good, tall, over four feet, large flowers of excellent substance, well branched, ranging in colour from mauve to a blue Louis Bel. These plants are absolutely hardy, and surpass anything of their strain in my garden.

No. 324—Ambassadeur × Esplendido

are of Ambassadeur type, but surprisingly more vigorous and taller, although they are not as good as Ambassadeur.

No. 517—Ambassador × Prospero

Not quite as good as the seed parent, but taller and more brown with a yellow glow at base of standard.

No. 637—A Romany Seedling

Like an 18-inch Dominion should be—good for rockery.

No. 45—Gaudichau × Prospero

Not outstanding in color. Somewhat like Santa Barbara, but a most vigorous plant, forming grand clumps.

No. 262—(Romany × Seminole)

In the order of Col. Candelot but brighter. I consider this very fine.

No. 315—(Sweet Lavender × Rheingauperlé)

The whitest ground plicata I have seen, with pinkest red feathering, flower of good form, and plant of good quality.

No. 94—(Shrewsbury × Troost)

General appearance somewhat like Evadne but paler. Troost Fall with Shrewsbury Beard, peculiar but striking. Small flower.

No. 364—(Anne Leslie × Rheingauperlé)

A larger and taller Anne Leslie.

No. 54—Magnifica × Prospero

Somewhat of Magnifica type but almost pink.

Three early iris have favourably impressed me, two quite dwarf, wine red and blue purple, of good form, with semi-flaring falls, and one pure white 24-inch very early and striking for the time of year.

I have only described a few from memory, that have been several years in the garden, and I have some hesitation in even doing this, as they are not very likely to be introduced, unless of course they receive endorsement in a much wider field than my garden. There are naturally hundreds of others which I like, but only regard as steps to *better* things. As a matter of fact, the breeding of new iris is a good deal more interesting than the results obtained from growing, and as I am not at all likely to flood the market with inferior introductions, no harm is done.

Mr. Chadwick bemoans a four month's season "from the middle of May to the middle of September" and yet even in Massachusetts (back from the coast, heavy frosts frequently cut our season to even less). North of Worcester I have known killing frosts (ones that effected corn) in the lowlands every month even when the gardens with good air-drainage remained untouched.—*Ed.*

GROWING TALL BEARDED IRIS IN ALBERTA

A. M. PATTERSON

As I have only a small garden and limited time and means to indulge in my hobby of growing the Tall Bearded Irises, my experience is more or less confined to a few of more established reputation rather than the newer and expensive ones. However, one, if he be an Iris enthusiast, cannot help but occasionally throw discretion to the wind and indulge in some of the varieties painted so temptingly in the iris catalogs. By having done so I have had many delightful surprises, and, I regret to say, a few disappointments.

Alberta can probably boast as much sunshine per year as California but outside of that, and the fact that at times we have insufficient moisture, there the resemblance ends. Our Summers are generally tempered by cooling winds from the mountains and the temperature rarely exceeds 90 degrees. Our Winters, as a usual thing, have very little snow and the temperature sometimes drops to 40 degrees below zero and occasionally to 48 degrees and 50 degrees. These cold spells, however, do not last long and are interspersed with warm winds called "Chinooks" which cause the thermometer to rise 20 degrees or 30 degrees in a few hours and the snow and ice to melt. In fact, we have so little snow that in the southern part of the Province snowshoes are almost unknown and sleighing and skiing matters of a short time only regardless of fiction writers and motion picture representations of Canada as the land of snow and ice, wolves and Eskimos. Of course, in Eastern Canada there is plenty of snow in the Winter time but this is not the case in the prairie provinces.

I have been growing Irises some seven or eight years and keep adding a few varieties to my collection each year; also discarding a few when they are proved outclassed by a newer kind. My collection consists, at the present time, of about one hundred varieties.

My main iris bed is a part of an old vegetable garden which had been cultivated and cropped for a dozen years so there is very little of the original soil left. The original soil was black loam but it has become mixed with the hard clay subsoil gradually, and is well drained. The plot is open to the east and south thereby

obtaining the greatest sunshine and is sheltered somewhat on the north and the west from the prevailing winds. I find the use of well rotted manure of the greatest benefit, contrary to the warnings of a good many authorities, and in preparing a new bed for planting I dig a considerable quantity into the soil. When the new bed is levelled I dust the surface heavily with slaked lime which is raked in. The plants, consisting of single rhizomes, are then set out about two feet apart as it takes about four years for the plant to reach maturity. By that time it is of considerable size. I find the use of lime does not cause rhizome rot with me, as intimated by some growers, but instead, seems to be a remedy for it. I give established plants a top dusting of lime at least twice in the growing season and this is raked in. In the Spring, also, I give a heavy dusting of bone meal. After the plants have bloomed, I give a top dressing of well rotted manure.

I find by practice that the best time in this part to divide old plants or plant new ones is just after they finish flowering, although I have tried both Spring and Fall planting as well. I have never seen an iris borer, nor have I seen results of one, and the cold Winters may have something to do in keeping this pest away. The only losses I have had were caused by winter weather.

If no rain is forthcoming, when the irises are in bud, it is necessary to soak them very thoroughly once or twice prior to the time they commence to bloom. At blooming time they get no water. The surface, however, is kept well loosened by shallow cultivation.

My irises are not protected in any way during the Winter and I have had surprisingly little loss considering the changes of temperature and the lack of the natural cover of snow. During our Indian Summer from September on, the rhizomes get a good baking in the sun as they are not artificially watered and only cultivated enough to keep down the weeds.

A plant is generally in its best in four years' time, after which, in the case of the more ordinary varieties, it is lifted and divided. Some slow growing varieties are not lifted and divided but merely have a piece removed from one side of the parent plant and the roots of the rest of the plant disturbed as little as possible. Of course, newly planted irises must be watered occasionally to encourage root growth if no rain is forthcoming.

My planting consists of a quantity of good old stand-bys, mostly of clear, light colors and bountiful in bloom, if the individual

blooms are not quite perfect. This background helps to display the newer and perhaps not quite so free flowering varieties which, I must confess, seem to have a trend lately to the sombre and dark side. For the purpose of background I use Florentina, Mrs. Alan Gray, Flavescens, Perfecta, Halfdan, and Her Majesty, all of which can be depended upon to give a good showing.

Among the older varieties which I cannot dispense with as they help out the garden picture so well are Rhein Nixe, Perfection. Archeveque, Aurea, Arnols, Nibelungen, Maori King, Moliere, Parc de Neuilly, Prosper Laugier, Opera, Madame Chereau, Parisiana and Sherwin Wright. Aurea and Perfection seem to be able to stand more shade and moisture than most other varieties, Sherwin Wright can always be depended upon to give a multitude of blooms and increases very fast. Parc de Neuilly is a wonderful bloomer and fast of increase. Opera is not very tall but is a wonderful spot of deep red-purple and is very fragrant. A bed or border of Nibelungen and Lorelei is like a glorious purple, tan and gold Oriental rug.

It is, perhaps, interesting to know the behaviour of some of the newer and well tried varieties here. Lent A. Williamson is without exception the most trustworthy and satisfactory variety in the garden. Last season it produced huge blooms on 46-inch stalks and even the small divisions I planted the year before produced, one, two, or three stalks of bloom. Ambassadeur was somewhat of a disappointment. The falls are of a gorgeous red shade but they appear to be rather small in comparison with the standards. The plant increases quite fast but in this climate is not floriferous nor do the stalks grow to the height reported in the catalog and I think it needs a more salubrious climate. To me, this variety appears a bit weedy.

Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau has been a decided acquisition. While not as floriferous as some others, it produces a fair number of tall stalks carrying huge blooms of a wonderful shade of deep violet, and it increases reasonably fast. This is a flower which is more attractive the more it is seen and the longer one grows it.

Juniata was not recommended for cold regions but was one of my pleasant surprises. It grew, last year, about 48 inches high and had several large frilly flowers of blue silk tinged with rose and was very fragrant.

Prince Lohengrin is a pinker Juniata and also very tall. This is, I think, inclined to be more free flowering and more fragrant than Juniata and is a great favorite.

Queen Caterina is another one not recommended for cold regions, but it has done very nicely with me. While the blooms are none too many they are medium to large and of a glistening pale mauve self color and very fragrant. The entire bloom seems to be dusted with silver and it is an indispensable variety.

Lord of June is a good bloomer and increaser, carrying its huge flowers on medium to tall stalks. As in the experience of others, the standards are inclined to be floppy. It is, however, a great favorite and deliciously fragrant.

Shekinah appears to be a good bloomer and of fast increase. I have grown this plant for only two years and am expecting a great deal from it this coming season.

Conquistador is one of my unhappy purchases. This one, Balserine, Grevin and Magnifica have been disappointments. They persist in growing and increasing but will not bloom. I am going to try some other cultivation this coming season. I think they require a dry season after blooming and some Winter protection.

This coming season I hope to bloom some new varieties planted last Summer including some of the much discussed "Dominion" race. Those planted last Summer included Amber, Ann Page, Aphrodite, Asia, Prospero, Dream, Duke of Bedford, El Capitan, Esplendido, Evadne, Germaine Perthuis, Gold Imperial, Julia Marlowe, Leonato, Majestic, Mary Barnett, Mme. Cecile Bouscant, Mrs. Marion Cran, Morning Splendor, Pioneer, Santa Barbara, Souv. de Loetitia Michaud, and Susan Bliss. Some of these, are not recommended for hardiness, but the descriptions were too alluring to resist a trial.

In conclusion I would like to say that it is inevitable not to have some favorites among the older varieties with which one could not very well dispense. For one reason or another I have much enjoyment from the following, some of which are perhaps not very floriferous but have an appeal: Mrs. Alan Gray, early, fragrant and dependable; Aurea, dependable and a good color; Caprice, gives a bright almost red spot in the garden and has a quantity of frilly fragrant flowers; Flavescens, creamy-yellow, blossoms in quantity and most dependable; Her Majesty, carries the pink of Mrs. Alan Gray into a later season and is very dependable; Isolene

for its blend of old rose, pearl and gold shades, the whole flower dusted with gold; Moliere, for its floriferousness, bearing huge dusky purple blossoms on medium stems and having exquisite fragrance; Prosper Laugier and Nibelungen for their wealth of gorgeous purple and gold and bronze and crimson flowers, and last, but not least, Florentina for its large but dainty pearly white blooms which come so early and are so fragrant.

THE IRIS IN SASKATCHEWAN

C. F. PATTERSON*

To many of our friends in the East and in the South the association of the iris with Saskatchewan may border on the ridiculous. Saskatchewan is usually regarded as a great wheat producing province in the far north and any suggestion of an active horticulture within its boundaries is frequently considered foreign to its potentialities. The long and severe winters and the short summers, characteristic of this region, are believed by many people to preclude all possibilities of growing even the hardest horticultural plants in the central prairie province of the Dominion.

Strange as it may seem, horticultural plants in great variety are found thriving in Saskatchewan. Annuals, biennials and perennials all are well-represented in collections of garden plants. In biennials and perennials only the hardiest forms are grown and in annuals only those that develop quickly and give the desired return in a short season are found in gardens but these number into hundreds. Within the species the usual range of varieties is grown and many western gardens appear not unlike those in the more temperate parts of Canada.

Of the various perennials grown in this province the iris is one of the least common. Here and there one finds a few plants of this flower but many excellent flower borders are without this perennial. Lack of popularity is not responsible for this condition as most flower-lovers have a fondness for the iris. Evidently the repeated failures with this plant that many flower growers have experienced and the belief that the iris is not hardy becoming rife have done much to prevent this flower from occupying the place in Saskatchewan horticulture that it deserves.

* Professor Patterson is Chief Horticulturist, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, and is in charge of the American Iris Society Test Garden situated there.—*Ed.*

While the iris can be grown successfully in this Province, the present state of our knowledge of the subject indicates that only certain forms are sufficiently hardy to survive western winters. It is too early as yet to make any definite statement other than that plants of *Iris sibirica* and a few of its varieties, *I. pumila*, *LUTEA*, *FLAVESCENS* and the varieties Nibelungen, Maori King, Lohengrin, Kharput, Loreley and Princess Victoria Louise have wintered well at the University for a few years at least. Other varieties give promise of possessing sufficient hardiness for this region but not for three or four years at least will a much extended list of hardy irises for Saskatchewan be available.



Test Garden at Saskatoon.

Through the kindness and generosity of the American Iris Society, Cornell University, Mr. F. C. Morgan, Montreal, and Mr. Carl Starker, Jennings Lodge, Oregon, this University has the largest collection of irises in Western Canada. Excellent material was supplied and very good stands of plants have been obtained. The first stock donated was received from the American Iris Society in 1928 and this donation was followed by one from the same organization in 1929; by one from Cornell University in 1929; by one from Mr. Morgan in 1929; by another from the American Iris Society in 1930 and also by one from Mr. Carl Starker in 1930.

Most of the plants received in 1928 and 1929 have made good growth and have wintered well thus far but not until two more years at least have passed will it be possible to make definite statements as to the suitability or to the non-suitability of these varieties to our conditions.

To many of us who are familiar with Western conditions it is astonishing that even a few horticultural plants thrive in Saskatchewan. The summers are dry and the winters are severe. The average annual precipitation at Saskatoon over a period of years is twelve and one-half inches approximately. In some seasons it drops considerably below this and in 1924 the total precipitation for the whole year was under eight inches. Some of this occurs during the winter months and is lost through run-off in the spring and the actual amount absorbed by the soil is considerably less than the figures given. Further, much of that absorbed by the soil is lost direct through evaporation by the hot dry winds that sweep the plains during the summer months. The amount of moisture that is actually available to the plant therefore is relatively small—very small as compared with that available to plants growing in most parts of the Eastern States and Eastern Canada—and only those plants that are economical in the use of water make growth that even approaches normal.

Merely to state that the winters here are severe is not sufficient to convey an idea of the conditions that prevail. A winter may be severe and yet not be injurious to plants. Here the winters are severe and are very hard on plants. The temperatures drop extremely low at times and with the thin covering of snow that is usually found the soil freezes to a great depth. No, this is not a land where the ground is perpetually frozen but the frost usually penetrates to a depth of eight feet on the level during the winter. Winter usually sets in at Saskatoon the first week in November. Little snow falls before Christmas and not infrequently do the temperatures drop during this period to fifteen or twenty degrees below zero. Such temperatures drive the frost into the uncovered soil at a rapid rate and before the end of the year the frost line may be found five feet or more below the ground surface. During January, temperatures forty degrees or more below zero are recorded and by the first week in March the frost line is usually at a depth of seven to eight feet. Toward the end of March the sun exerts a marked effect upon the atmospheric temperature and

the maximum temperatures at this time may rise considerably above the freezing point.

April usually brings forth weather that is really springlike and before the end of the month planting can often be started. In a normal year most of the spring planting of woody plants and other perennials is done during the last week in April and the first week or ten days in May. Frosts occur during May and the frost free season does not begin until about June 1st. Frosts have been known to occur every month in the year, but June, July and August are usually frost free and the first killing frost in the autumn seldom occurs before the first week in September. Early September frosts are usually not heavy enough to injure sweet peas and roses seriously and these usually continue blooming until toward the end of September. Exceptions occur and in 1929 rose plants continued to bloom until October 10th when they were cut down by frost while in 1930 rose buds were destroyed by a heavy frost that occurred on the night of August 31st.

While the way of the horticulturist in this part of the Dominion is hard yet much can be accomplished. To do little of a lasting nature one frequently expends much energy but the satisfaction of becoming a conqueror is usually ample reward for efforts required. It has often been said that people in the prairie provinces of Canada are born optimists and live in the future. This may or may not be true in a general way but it is unmistakably true as far as horticulture is concerned. Horticulture in the West is still in its infancy and little is known regarding its possibilities but great hopes are held for its future. The writer is confident that the iris will play no small part in the development of horticulture in Saskatchewan.

AT LAKE COWICHAN, VANCOUVER ISLAND

G. BUCHANAN SIMPSON

Lake Cowichan lies approximately in the center portion of southern Vancouver Island, 500 feet above sea-level, and our garden is close to the lake shore, facing east and north.

The soil is poor and acid, very stony, gravelly and sandy. The annual rainfall is about 60 inches, nearly all of which comes between early October and the end of March. In some years, during December, January or February, we get from a few inches to several feet of snow. Our maximum summer temperature is about 92 or 93 deg. F. in July or August; and the winter minimum is on occasions as low as 1 or 2 deg. above zero F.

In spite of the heavy winter rains, we succeed quite well in the growing of Irises, Lilies and Alpine plants. Two months of hot ripening sunshine and dry weather every summer without fail (in July and August) seem to us to be most beneficial to the majority of plants in the garden; and this thorough ripening (lacking in most years in England) appears to enable somewhat tender or difficult species to exist successfully during the vagaries of our usually dismal winter.

The first of our Irises to bloom (in early February) is *histrioides*. We are growing the beautiful large flowered form *var. major*. This species does exceedingly well in the native soil, somewhat enriched with leaf-mould.

Histrioides is followed closely by the ordinary purple form of *reticulata* (smelling sweetly of violets on a warm day); "Cantab," one of the pale blue forms of this species, flowers about three weeks before the type.

The three Irises just mentioned are very good "doers." In the open ground, of course, the flowers are sometimes spoiled by bad weather, rain or sleet. The flowers of all three will stand quite a number of degrees of frost without injury. We lift the bulbs of these Irises every summer, as soon as they are thoroughly dry and dormant, to look them over for leather jackets and other insect pests. After destroying diseased bulbs, the sound ones are replanted by mid-September.

The sundry garden forms of *pumila*, *chamaeciris* and *aphylla* all do well in a sunny border of rockery. They are inclined to be a bit starved in our poor soil, preferring something richer and slightly heavier. They seem, too, to appreciate a thorough watering once or twice during the long dry period.

Our soil is also on the poor side for the ordinary garden "flag" Irises. *the only* Irises in the world for many Iris enthusiasts; but they do very well for all that. Because of our acid soil, we periodically top dress all the "flags," and the dwarfs mentioned in the preceding paragraph, with bone dust, ground limestone, slaked lime or super-phosphate.

Eighteen months ago, we gave our flag Iris borders a top dressing of peat moss litter and bone dust with apparently most beneficial results. Other growers of these Irises, with a poor dry soil, might well try out an experimental plot with peat moss litter.

We are growing about 50 of the older varieties of these Irises, but no new ones. All do well, excepting "Richard II" and he seems hard to please anywhere. *Ochracea coerulea* ("Sunset") (Denis, 1919) is one of our favorites.

In a cooler border (no lime), facing north, with a high board fence keeping out 50 per cent. of the hot sun to the south, we are very successful with the following. The border is well watered during the dry weather. It has been deeply dug and a lot of leaf soil and sharp clean sand incorporated with the native earth. The Californian Irises seem all well pleased and increase satisfactorily . . . *tenuis*, *bracteata*, *tenax*, *purdyi*, *macrocephalon* . . . these growing in front of lilies like *Duchartrei*, *Parryi* and *monadelphum* *Sovitzianum*.

Iris verna, *Tollong*, *cristata* also flourish here. *Dichotoma* does well, too, in this border, but always dies after flowering. It is rather a queer-looking Iris, more quaint than beautiful.

In a lower portion of the garden, with lots of leaf soil and black swamp muck added to the native soil, we have the Irises liking moister conditions. This part is always well drained, however, even in the wettest weather.

Here the beautiful *sibiricas* all ramp . . . *Perry's Blue*, *Bleu Celeste*, *orientalis* "Emperor" and "Snow Queen" and also "Caesar." The latter is outstandingly beautiful, much admired by everyone who sees it.

Bulleyana, *chrysographes*, *Wilsoni*, *Clarkei* and *Forrestii* are all happy companions to the former, and the clumps need constant division, so fast do they increase.

The *Kaempferi* Irises, with their tongue-twisting Japanese names, are lusty growers here too. *Iris laevigata* and some varieties, though preferring wetter, boggy situations, flower freely every year. The plant we got as *laevigata* from the Yokohama Nursery Company is indeed a most handsome thing for a moist sunny spot.

Versicolor and *pseudacorus* took up too much valuable ground in the former company and they were dumped unceremoniously on the lake shore in wild land. Their crowns are now under water (from one to six feet deep) all winter, and only emerge in April, as the lake sinks towards its low summer level. They remain perfectly happy, flower freely and are both quite showy in a big mass.

With the *sibiricas* grows *foetidissima*. We always seem to miss seeing the flowers, until they are over, but the showy seed-pods later try to make amends. This species seems to resent any temperature near zero F. Such extreme cold is abnormal for us here and during last winter, which was abnormal, we nearly lost *foetidissima*.

Graminea is also in this section of the garden. Its greengage-scented flowers, Sir Arthur Hort tells us, make a fragrant button-hole.

The spuria Irises also grow in this damp part of the garden, *ochroleuca*, *aurea*, *Monnieri* and spuria "*A. W. Tait*." These are all tall-growing, and *ochroleuca* and *aurea* are especially stately and beautiful.

Setosa (*tricuspis* or *tridentata*) is a pretty little Iris, very easily pleased in a somewhat moist corner.

We are growing quite a number of Juno Irises in the garden but it is too soon yet to speak of their behavior here. The very beautiful hybrid *Sind-pers* we have had some time, and it increases and flowers well. Of similar easy culture and good behavior are *bucharica* and *orchioides*.

We also have the *Oncocyclus* Irises, *iberica*, *paradoxa*, *atropurpurea*, *Mariae*, *Sari*, *Sofarana* and *Susiana*, but none of them really long enough to speak with any confidence of their ways and wants. *Susiana* did fairly well and flowered beautifully the second year we had it. Since that effort it has sulked for two years.

In the Regelia section a couple of *Korolkowi* Irises, *stolonifera* and *Hoogiana*, are quite satisfactory. The last named really

grows with us as well as we could imagine it growing in its native Turkestan. It is planted in full sun, in our well drained light soil, to which an equal quantity of swamp muck has been added, and also lots of lime. A friend of ours on Vancouver Island grew his Hoogiana in a much wetter spot. His plants did ever so much better than ours until rather a moister winter than usual finished off his whole plantation.

A few of the *Regelio-cyclus* hybrids, "*Charon*," "*Hecate*," and company, also do pretty well. These are all beautiful.

But the *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* Irises are really plants only for the gardener who takes his Irises almost as seriously as Mr. E. A. Bowles does his croci at Myddleton House, Enfield.

On looking back through the foregoing notes, it is found that no mention has been made of one or two quite important species. We got *Iris japonica* some five years ago from the Yokohama Nursery Co., Ltd., Yokohama. In England during the past two years several references have been made to "*Ledger's*" variety of this *Iris*, reputed to be hardier than the type. As far as we know, our plant of this *Iris* is just the ordinary type. It was planted in very poor dry ground at the foot of a wall of a wooden tool house, facing S. W. Thus it gets most thoroughly baked in summer. It has certainly grown like the worst kind of weed and increases rapidly by stolons. After a severe winter of alternate soaking rain, snow and about 30 deg. F. of frost, the handsome foliage of this *Iris* looks a little the worse for wear, but it never fails to flower every year in early summer. The individual flowers are almost as fugaceous as those of *dichotoma*, but they succeed one another so often that the supply of buds seems almost unlimited. The shape of the flowers is rather unique in Irises and the plant is well worthy of a place in any garden where it would be hardy.

Starvation diet in a very well drained spot and lots of ripening sun seem to be what this *Iris* needs to make it flower well.

Iris minuta, a tiny woodlander with yellow flowers and narrow foliage, six or eight inches high, is quite hardy here and increases well. Our plants have been so torn up for propagating purposes that they have not yet flowered.

Florentina (a white form of *germanica*) is growing with the rest of the "*flags*." During the five years we have had it, it has not done very well, being in a very poor place, much neglected. This form is of interest as being grown near Florence for the

rhizomes, which are dried and become the "Orris Root" of commerce.

Fulva has not yet flowered and has done badly. It is growing with the *sibiricas* and appears quite hardy. I think it wants more moisture than we have been able to give it during the bad droughts of the past two summers.

Wet and near zero weather, alternating, all but killed *stylosa* and its white form about a year ago. We are now trying to establish what remains of this very beautiful Iris in a cold frame. It is too soon to speak of results.

I. juncea (looking like a yellow "Spanish") was mostly winter killed last year out of doors. This and *tingitana* also want frame cultivation.

English, Spanish and Dutch Irises do very well as ordinary garden plants. Some of these are now being grown commercially in the field, in Southern Vancouver Island.

I. sisyrinchium requires cold frame treatment. The lavender flowers are not very showy and are over very quickly. It is a collector's plant and not one for the general amateur gardener.

I. tuberosa, or more correctly *Hermodactylus tuberosus*, though not a true Iris, looks much like one to the ordinary gardener. It flourishes in our light soil in a sunny spot. The pale-green and black flowers appear in March, a little after the flowering of *reticulata*. They are curiously beautiful and always evoke favorable comment from keen gardeners who see them here for the first time.

All the Irises mentioned in the foregoing notes, with but few exceptions, are well worthy of cultivation if garden space and climatic conditions admit of it.

The following species Irises, all of easy culture and outstanding beauty, should be grown if possible by every lover of the flower: *histrioides* major, *reticulata*, *cristata*, *Forrestii*, *gracilipes*, *teetorum*, *tenax*, *tenuis*, *verna*, *purdyi*, *bracteata* and the other Californians, and *chrysographes*.

If desired, suitable sites in the rock garden can be found for many of these. When the plants are established, it is certain that no rock garden enthusiast will ever grudge these Irises the small space which they occupy.

AN IRIS GARDEN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

HUBERT JONES

Six years ago Irises were practically unknown to me although I had a dim recollection of having grown at home in England—twenty-five years ago—a beautiful, tall and large blue flower, called locally, a Flag. It must have been a *kaempferi* as blue Irises of large size were at that time unknown. So, I suppose, by all right reasoning, I should be the last person in the world to write about Irises in British Columbia. I will, however, try to give a little sketch of how I became—through circumstances more than anything else—an Iris lover and enthusiast.

Years of drought and a scarcity of water for our gardens compelled me either to abandon gardening or else find some other plant or plants which would withstand a dry climate. I finally decided to specialize in Irises, confining myself to growing these flowers only.

I could not possibly have chosen a more suitable plant for the existing conditions, as, for a minimum of labour I get a maximum of pleasure and bloom, besides having foliage that is fresh and clean when the blooming season is over, and which fills up the odd corners and waste places admirably.

The first few specimens were, of course, the old sorts. They were very disappointing but having determined to devote my garden to Irises exclusively, I attacked the thing thoroughly. I bought all the varieties the local growers could supply, received gifts from kind friends and set the small boys of the neighborhood collecting all they could lay their hands on, giving them in return a suitable reward for their labour. The planting of these Irises was a tremendous bit of work.

That winter I bought books (Stager's book on Irises was the first) and magazines, devoting my evenings to hunting up tit-bits and varieties. Thus, I automatically drifted into the realm of Iris literature and the homes and gardens across the border and in this delightful atmosphere I still dwell, live and have my being. My winter evenings are now devoted to poring over the *Bulletin* of the English and American Iris Societies; in the summer I am far too busy to even look at them.

The glowing accounts I found in American catalogues of the wondrous new varieties decided finally my course of action. The second year of my experiment found my garden the home of some of these wonders, amongst them Asia, Ambassadeur, Ballerine, Mme. Cheri and Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau. I had now seventeen of the new varieties in my garden and eighty or more of the older ones. These are still listed in all Canadian catalogues.

In the July number of the Canadian Horticulturist—the official organ of many of the eastern Canadian Horticultural Societies—Mr. W. Miles gives a very encouraging account of the progress of the Iris in eastern Canada. There are signs, lots of them, that British Columbia will not be so far behind them in a year or two. Our Experimental Farm at Summerland has quite a number of the modern Irises under cultivation, and our city put on a splendid flower show last year in which Irises predominated. Most of them were old varieties but they were *Irises*, and the love of the flower was sufficient to prompt the exhibitors to all kinds of labour. Otherwise, there would not have been such a proud showing.

British Columbia will surely come into its own and will follow the example of the other countries in falling head-over-heels in love with the Iris, and who knows, may yet have its own Iris Society.

The Prairie Provinces, too, I have no doubt, will before long, take to growing more of these delightful flowers, because whatever effect climatic conditions may have on Irises there, such as modification of size, differences in colour and habit, there are still plenty of hardy varieties such as Ambassadeur, Susan Bliss, Mother of Pearl, Magnifica—to mention only a few—that will pay handsomely for a little care and attention.

For a number of years I have been sending my best varieties of Irises to Manitoba to test their hardiness and adaptability. Some of these were Ballerine, Ambassadeur, Mother of Pearl, Lord of June, Orchracea (Sunset), Magnifica, Prospero, Shekinah, Mme. Cheri, Asia, Ann Bullen, Lady Byng and Zilia. All have weathered the winters and flowered well.

At the present time I have growing in my garden over seventy of the latest modern varieties and have to change my stock of adjectives every time a new flower blooms. Frieda Mohr, Purissima, San Francisco, Romola, Mme. Durrand, Dolly Madison; they all do well. Apparently they have taken a liking to our British

Columbia climate, for they have never had anything but ordinary attention.

Last year we had one of the most severe winters the country has experienced for many years. For more than four weeks the temperature varied from ten degrees below zero in the day-time to twenty and thirty degrees below zero at nights. The Irises had no covering of any kind and there was hardly any snow, but they all bloomed perfectly last summer. Thus, I think I am right in saying that British Columbia is an ideal home for the modern Iris.

Visitors from the West Coast, and even from the United States, have greatly admired the beauty and wonderful plant growth of my Irises. Some of the newer varieties having a very strong appeal were Pioneer, Romola, Frieda Mohr, Majestic and the delightful blue Ariel. Mrs. Marion Cran has always been a favorite and is, I am sure, the most lovely of the pinks. Of the soft laven-
ders Mlle. Schwartz was the best; no Iris in the garden last year could compare with her for sheer beauty.

There are other Irises that will grow in British Columbia. Irises that love moisture, such as the *sibiricas*, *ochroleuca*, *Ochroleuca kaempferi*, *Monspur* and *monnieri*, thrive wonderfully here. A stream running through my grounds makes a natural home for them.

A few of the gardens here have some of the newer Irises—such as Asia, Ambassadeur, Susan Bliss—but generally speaking, the Okanagan Valley has not acquired the Iris habit. But it will; climate and soil, the growing love for gardens, and the wonderful beauty of the Iris of today will all conspire to make British Columbia gardeners, before long, as much in love with the Iris as our neighbours and friends across the border. I should like, if I may, to close this little sketch of Irises in British Columbia, by tendering my mite of thanks and praise to the English, French and American breeders for the pleasure their efforts have afforded me.

Each year I am amazed again at the endurance of iris rhizomes. As I scan the compost heap for chance seedlings of Foxglove, Sweet Rocket (a delightful thing for combining with irises) on Johnny-Jump-Ups I invariably find discarded rhizomes as thrifty as those in the garden. In fact, some left-overs dropped in the shade of an arbor-vitae hedge at Lowthorpe some years ago will actually bloom this season.—*Ed.*

IRIS BREEDERS' GARDENS

A. E. WALLER

During a season which at best could be described as freakish and extremely unfavorable, it was my good fortune to visit two notable iris gardens, namely those of Dr. Wylie McL. Ayres, near Cincinnati, and Mr. E. B. Williamson's in Bluffton, Indiana. There are doubtless other gardens of which I am unfortunately ignorant, but if space can be found in the BULLETIN, I would be glad to report on these two.

Those who have visited Dr. Ayres know the site of this garden overlooking the Little Miami River on one of the many hills near Cincinnati. A rather steep ascent, with a couple of sharp turns in the road, brings one up to the shoulders of a ridge on which the house and gardens are located, with the main body of the hill forming a semicircle to the north and west about a quarter of a mile distant. From the house the land slopes downward in all directions. The gently sloping land is somewhat limited and the views of the valley below are beautiful, appearing just below the terrace though really several miles away. In consequence of this nearly ideal site neither soil nor air drainage offer any serious problems.

Climbing the hill affords time for a progressive study in iris evolution. At the bottom near the gate the oldest and first varieties to be discarded have become naturalized. They include *Honorabile*, *Flavescens*, *Major*, *Florentina*; all of which thrive as roadside plants in many parts of Ohio in spite of the rapid pace of road construction and road widening. An iris flora would have to include these varieties as naturalized plants. At the first sharp turn are unidentified patches, perhaps seedlings of *trojana*, which fifteen years ago might have caused a sensation. Still higher up are some of the well known varieties like *Queen of May*, *Rose Unique*, *Albert Victor*, *Nine Wells*, *Archeveque*. These are still favorites with many, but in Dr. Ayres' garden are put out into this evolutionary limbo since they have not retained a place in his breeding program.

Having crossed the terrace in front of the house one passes down through a gateway into the enclosed garden. Black locust

trees, native on the hill, are close enough to the outside of the fence to serve as a wind break. There are also a few pines and Lombardy poplars. It is interesting to note that, since all of these trees produce scant shade, they could be incorporated into landscape plantings of iris without seriously intercepting the light. There is no attempt at effect, however, in Dr. Ayres' garden; his plantings are planned strictly for the purpose of developing his seedlings and propagating the plants, and are in tiers of rectangular beds separated by grass paths. The beds are approximately four by twelve feet each. I was told there are a hundred and twenty and all but five contain seedlings produced in the garden.

It would be entirely beyond the scope of one review to do justice to the many fine irises that are to be seen in this garden. But perhaps a brief statement of the methods used can give the reader a foretaste so that he may go and see some of them for himself. To begin with, Mr. Charles Phillips, of Cincinnati, was the first introducer of *Dominion* of record. He imported six plants and distributed these among several friends, one of whom was Dr. Ayres. A parent of many of the Ayres plants is a hybrid, *Nine Wells* x *Dominion*. This excellent breeder has given vigor, height, substance and carriage to many of the seedlings. *Cardinal* was also used as a parent for others. Mr. Connell's *Dauntless* has likewise been a factor. I would also give equally prominent rank to *mesopotamica*; to *Kashmir White*; to *Loute*; and to a *plicata* seedling of Mr. Mitchell's, of California. When crosses are made an indelible label, first attached to the seed pod, follows the seeds to the germinating bed and goes with the seedlings to their blooming beds. There are usually only one or two pods of a certain cross and naturally a limited number of seedlings of similar parentage. Each plant is watched individually from its germination period. Weaklings and slow plants are destroyed at the end of the first bloom season.

The selection of the desirable seedlings is most rigorous. The almost perfect plants are ruthlessly discarded. Sometimes they have gone to enrich the gardens of friends. However, these friends would have to be right on the spot when the offending plant was pulled up or the chance of saving its life would be forever lost. Many of the seedlings yanked out by the roots and tossed onto the rubbish heap are much finer than many of the good iris in commercial collections. Amateur in its most literal meaning accurately

describes Dr. Ayres' method. He is a prince among sportsmen who finds more zest in producing fine irises than in any other game. Where the rules of the game call for accurate attention to details he draws upon his careful medical training. Many of his plants are second and third generations of selections in a particular direction. From the genetic viewpoint the small numbers of offspring dealt with have yielded a surprisingly large proportion having the characters that are desired. The desirable traits have become concentrated by close breeding, though I do not know of a single plant obtained by self pollination in his garden. The logic of his results would point to experimentation with self pollinations as the next step.

Selection has been from the first for form, substance and vigor. One of his breeders bears the nickname Miof. Translated this stands for "my idea of form." Two of Dr. Ayres' seedlings are being distributed by Mrs. Pattison, *Persia* and *Indian Chief*. Another one, and in my estimation the best of the trio, possibly because I saw it last, will be offered in a year or two by Mr. Cooley. Such remarkable restraint in introductions after fifteen years of hybridizing, with the production of hundreds of fine plants, is a strong argument in favor of seasoning and maturing introductions. To Dr. Ayres each of his selected plants is a personal friend. A growing intimacy with one of these is likely to give each fortunate possessor a lifetime of pleasure.

No greater contrasts in iris gardens could be imagined than between Dr. Ayres' and Mr. Williamson's. Bluffton is on the Wabash River, at its source a slow meandering stream. That a town takes its names from a river's bluff, not more than thirty feet in height, is prima-facie evidence that the land near it is flat. It consists of prairie patches of rich black soil interspersed with swamp woods. It is known to the readers of Mrs. Stratton Porter's books as the Limberlost country. Mr. Williamson's irises are likewise a game rather than a serious occupation. He is known as the former president of the Wells County bank and as an international authority on dragonflies. Banking took up his days. Describing new species of dragonflies took up his nights, leaving the hours between four a. m. and nine a. m. unoccupied. It is a point that may be corroborated by his many friends that during the iris season Mr. Williamson not only requires no sleep himself, but also reduces the sleep requirement of his visitors. I not only enjoy this

in Bluffton, but find that I carry, at least temporarily, a little of Mr. Williamson's wonderful energy home with me. Mr. Williamson's first ventures into iris hybridizing were with the *Pogo-cyclus* forms. He had been told by the late Mr. J. N. Gerard, author of one of the articles in Bailey's *Cyclopedia*, (who was at that time his sole *Iris* correspondent) that the *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* irises offered more chances for improvement than the tall bearded irises. Perhaps it was about 1906 or 1907 when Mr. Williamson started collecting and hybridizing the Palestine iris. One of the hybrids so produced is still in cultivation; it is *Cherokee Maid*. Perhaps it was the poorly drained land, or the climate, but at least the tall bearded iris in the Williamson collection grew better and soon received more attention than the other species. The earlier collections were dispersed, but not until after Mr. Marion Shull had made some colored drawings of the rather unusual hybrids, and I was fortunate enough to be shown a number of these pictures this year. The most interesting were the *Korolkowi* hybrids. It was because of his interest in iris species that we have *Dorothea K. Williamson*, the well known *fulva* x *foliosa* hybrid. This plant was selected as the richest deep purple from several hundred seedlings.

That Mr. Williamson was at first, at least, just playing with irises to see the results of hybridization is proved by the story of his variety *Carnival*, his first seedling. The full account of it and a philosophical treatise as well are contained in his 1929 catalog where this introduction was listed as *Sordida*. For this story, and a few others of the varieties, the reader is referred to the Longfield iris catalogs from 1927 to date. They contain some of the most refreshing, pithy remarks in iris literature.

If I were to try to compress to a single word Mr. Williamson's horticultural activity I should say exuberance comes near to expressing it. His back yard garden became too crowded years ago. He obtained long leases on all the vacant building sites adjoining the churches in his neighborhood. There are three or four of these. In addition, he has his main field on the edge of the town. Mr. Williamson's pollinating method is planned for mass production. If, in friendly argument I happen to have pushed the point that it is unscientific and devoid of philosophy, I must always admit that it is practical common sense. The method is to gather all the possible pollen from opened flowers and mix it in small pill boxes.

Then for several days while flowers from a block of plants chosen to be seed parents are opening the mixed pollen is applied. The result is that a stalk may have as many seed pods as it bore flowers. Further, the seeds produced may conceivably have as many different irises for their pollen parents as there are seeds. New seedlings, literally by the thousand, are germinated every year. They are grown in open ground and bloomed where they have been germinated. This year, in one row, where the seeding was accidentally too thick, the young plants were counted and average thirty to the foot. Ordinarily in his rows the seedlings are 15 to 20 to the foot. Perhaps this crowding acts as a biological method of selection preserving only the most vigorous seedlings. At least we all agree that Mr. Williamson's plants are vigorous and give an excellent performance in our gardens. Every year for the past three years, since I have been interested in iris, I have met a number of competent, experienced judges of iris who are engaged in the absorbing task of selecting from the numerous seedlings the few that are to be kept for propagation. Less than a hundred are saved each year. It consequently means that the first judging has to be pushed rapidly and only the most distinct sorts saved. In checking over Mr. Williamson's 1930 catalog I note about 60 introductions covering a period of fifteen years or more of iris hybridizing. I make no claim to mathematical ability but I regard his method as slow and wasteful. It is as exuberant as Mother Nature's. If he chose but one plant a year to be his seed parent and he produced enough of that to accomodate all the fertile kinds of pollen in his garden (several hundreds of varieties), he would still be producing only two or three seedlings per year derived from the same seed and pollen parents. He would be several million years in finding out which are desirable pairs of parents to use, granting that each seedling has two parents.

Not even I and least of all, of course, could Mr. Williamson be expected to take my railings seriously. His results show that genetic methods do not count for much in producing fine iris. He has Lent A. Williamson—a sort of lone eagle with partial derivation similar to Dominion. He has Dolly Madison, Cinnabar, Marschal Ney, Rasakura, Jane Williamson, Geo. J. Tribolet, Colias, Avatar, Silver Ribbon, Cantabile, Argynnis and about three score others; distinct, vigorous, fine plants which are being rapidly dispersed to find a welcome in gardens all over the wide world.

But it should be said that eventually the cream of the fine irises that can be produced by out-crossing methods will have all been skimmed. At that time more careful methods and close breeding, and even selfing to concentrate the desired character, will be followed. Perhaps we will not need these methods for years, for so far as I know none of Mr. Williamson's varieties have ever been back crossed onto its parents, largely because they are unknown. But as to the two methods described above they have in common the uncertainty that always results from cross pollination of partially known plants. Both Dr. Ayres' and Mr. Williamson's gardens are obtaining a harvest of beautiful plants and in neither garden could the same plants be reobtained by repeating the methods used.

TRAVEL NOTES, 1930

BY ETHEL ANSON S. PECKHAM

This summer we have been able to arrange for two new Iris Test Gardens. One at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, will be in charge of Professor Paul B. Sears, the other at Macdonald College, about twenty miles outside of Montreal, Quebec, will be under Professor T. Gordon Bunting. This latter will have a very attractive position on the college campus in a part adjacent to the Macdonald High School. I went to Canada to look at this site and confer with Dean Barton and Professor Bunting and am delighted at the opportunity for this new garden. At the same time we paid a visit to the gorgeous rock-garden of our well-known member, Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan. Mr. Morgan has generously promised samples of all of his very fine collection of irises for the Macdonald Garden. They already have quite a few good standard varieties in sufficient quantity to make nice plantings and we have sent them some other sorts from the New York Botanical Garden this summer. We will now have a Test Garden at each end of Canada. By the way, I would be glad if our Pacific Coast and Northwestern members would send what they can spare to Professor C. F. Patterson, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. This is a fine place to make hardiness tests and I have sent on this year all American varieties I could lay my hands on so as to get a report for the originators. Any one wishing to send to Saskatchewan should drop Professor Patterson a line saying the number of plants he wants to send and Professor



LeGrand Ferre and Amerind, with Vingolf in foreground.

Patterson will get a permit of entry into Canada for them. This is quite easy to do but they just have to know the things are coming and it saves a lot of time to have the permit number on the outside of the parcel. Another reminder, Mr. P. A. Kohl is the name of the gentleman in charge at the Missouri Botanical Garden; we had it wrong in the BULLETIN several times and I would like a correction so our members may know who it is that gives us such good help.

In Mrs. Hires' very interesting article in BULLETIN 36 she speaks about some of Mr. Williamson's seedlings. I was much impressed by the generally fine quality of his seedlings, the standard runs very high. His latest introductions also are really splendid things. BEAU SABREUR, after being planted about fourteen months in my garden, bloomed (from one original rhizome) with five huge stalks of gorgeous flowers. It withstood some bad rainstorms and is a flower of excellent substance and exquisite color. I have a planting of AMERIND, LE GRAND FERRÉ and VINGOLF in my so-called rose-bed (where there is five per cent of roses to ninety-five of other plants) and near this is BEAU SABREUR just in front of a large plant of JACQUELINE GUILLOT. What a sight they were! No fertilizer went in when they were planted but a few wood-ashes were sprinkled about in spring. The old, old friable soil did its work and I cannot concur with Mrs. Hires' suggestion of using deep, strong-colored variegatas such as GAY HUZAR and BEAU SABREUR with blends or dark shrubs and evergreens. To make them really show up they want a light background. You will notice in the photograph taken here this summer GAY HUZAR is backed by a pale pink pyrethrum. The combination, though sounding perfectly awful, was an extremely beautiful one and the grey, red-tipped foliage of *Sedum sieboldi* with reddish *Sempervivum triste* at their feet was quite in the picture. Naturally a variegata has to be a good one to show up in front of dark shrubs and that is a fool-proof way to pick them out, but they themselves are lovelier with light colors and a flower of different shape from that of the iris, a feathery or rayed thing will make the group even better than the combination with a pale variety of the same genus.

Mr. Williamson has a very fine dark reddish bi-color seedling, No. 786, that will be hard to beat, but, after all, we have neglected one of his best, AVATAR. This was simply lovely this year and



Gay Huzzar and pink pyrethrum.



Avatar.

it is a fine grower. I regret that the judges neglected to give this an Award of Merit when it was at the Bronx last year as it is miles in the van of many irises already given such recognition. CINNABAR was in superb form here and at the Bronx. After sixteen hours of hard rain I went out to cut some stalks for a show expecting nothing but had the surprise of my life. CINNABAR was standing up with the *same* flowers open and in perfect condition so I took them to the show and they stayed perfect all that day though packed and carried many miles. They were not tied in a box not touching anything else, either, but put in newspapers and pretty tight among many other irises.

On our travels Anson and I went to Washington where we saw some seedlings of Mr. Sheets' shown at one of the department stores there among others of his splendid collection. One, a dark, dusky thing was attractive and I think is that which received an H. M. at the show later. Mr. Simpson had some interesting varieties of his raising in his garden. One, a tall, graceful delicate bluish blend hard to describe particularly took my fancy. It is a thing to live with for a while before becoming really enthusiastic, perhaps, but then one likes it more and more. I believe this is the best sort to get for one's own garden.

However, the prime seedlings were at Mr. Morrison's. He doesn't say much about his plants but he keeps on working and the jumps he has made in the last year or two are amazing. I remember the story about the cat and his boots and the one about the Yorkshire giant who strode from one ridge of moor to the next but it looks as if Mr. Morrison had made bigger steps than either of them. He has been concentrating on variegatas and I saw rows of them. In these rows were "stuff to throw out" better than anything we have except the afore-mentioned BEAU SABREUR, GAY HUZZAR and JOAN CURTIS. Against the chicken-house wall—a dull, dirty sort of background that most variegatas would disappear into, we saw PICADOR. It grows just as sturdily as the rampant DAUNTLESS but is a *good* variegata and it is tall, too. Remember DAUNTLESS best of its color-class. Besides this there is ESCAMILLO with standards the color of those of CITRONELLA and falls all red-brown like that best spot in CITRONELLA falls but the shape is a lovely, spreading one, the whole flower slightly ruffled. This is tall also and of slightly more slender habit than PICADOR. FESTIVE, a giant IRIS KING,



Beau Sabreur.



Wind Jammer.

is another whacking good grower. In raising variegatas, blues will turn up and, in HENCHMAN, Mr. Morrison has an unusual one. It is a medium, rather slaty but clear blue and a distinct very dark border goes all around all the perianth segments—very neat and attractive. The flowers are large and there are many of them but the height is medium. I would rather have it taller for the sized flower but we need good irises of this height as we run to too many very tall ones. HENCHMAN and Mr. Williamson's DOROTHY DIETZ are the most unusual irises seen this year. I say unusual, for DOROTHY DIETZ is a very good neglecta and there are practically none of them. We did see a new one (to us) from Goos and Koenemann when we were at Mrs. Emigholz's but the name has escaped me. It is worth while from a first year stalk but did not seem quite up to DOROTHY DIETZ.

At the Worcester Horticultural Society show there were some excellent seedlings shown, I think, by Mr. McKee. There was a giant "better" SWAZI and a heavy, dark red-purple of flaring shape and huge size with great substance. One large flower open on the top of the stalk. It was the very "spit and image" of Dr. Ayres' MELDORIC but in another color class. These had DOMINION blood I was told. It is noticeable that judges will give an award for the best stalk to one with several flowers open at a time if the flowers are good but smaller than one on a seedling of this type.

I liked Mr. Beaudry's yellow in Boston. Yellows this year were not so wonderful as the ravings would lead one to believe. PLUIE D'OR was beautiful in Boston and in a pouring rain in Cincinnati it positively glowed. It is luminous and seems to stand up under rain quite well though not of thick substance. I think it is better than the "pickiest" cranks would want you to think but I think there will be a better one soon. GOLDEN GLORY is a good grower and of yellows introduced to date is about one of the best but of course it has marks on so it won't please those "picky and choosy" ones again. I would certainly be willing to recommend it to the general iris public for it is not ruinous in price and you really get something for the money. Mr. Shull has a good yellow of nice, heavy substance and spreading shape. I get tired of these so-called yellows that are like the sort of tissue paper we don't mention—all crinkled, cramped and curled. Mr. Shull's holds itself like a self-respecting iris of another color. The yellow

is rather opaque but it is yellow and not a brown apology for it—cooked too long like camp eggs. Before I stop I want to say a word for one of the Scott irises, WIND-JAMMER. I don't like the name because I adore a ship and wouldn't insult it by using a rough, slang term that a true sailor would not mention aloud on her deck, but I have found this plant a real treat that grows prettily. A nice blue that blends well with other colors and as fine a branching habit as could be desired.

We heard several funny remarks as we wandered about gardens this year, one that all the borers were not in the plants and the other bon mot, gracefully delivered by Richardson Wright that "All God's chillun's got window-boxes—and irises in 'em!"

REPORT OF TEST GARDENS—1930

ETHEL ANSON S. PECKHAM, CHAIRMAN

We have three new test gardens and one in prospect. One is in Oklahoma, at the University of Oklahoma, another at Macdonald College, Quebec, and the third at the Marsh Botanic Garden, Yale University. We hope shortly to have another test garden at Ohio State University under Mr. Seifert and Dr. Waller. We have raised the garden at Yale University, which we have been interested in for some time, to the status of an official test garden because the test on native species will be carried on there. This gives us, then, thirteen test gardens, one at each end of Canada and the others scattered about in different parts of the United States. Eventually we should have one test garden in each State. There are three in one State at the present time which seems an over concentration but two of them are working on different lines. One has emphasis on Bearded, the other on Beardless Irises.

The card-catalogues of the gardens are in better condition, they were checked over during the summer, many plants were distributed and I feel that this department is really in better order than it has been for a long time. Complaints have been registered by various writers in our BULLETINS, etc., that test gardens are not what they should be. The main reason why they are not is because members do not back up the Officers of the A. I. S. in really helping these Test Gardens by going on the Committees to work there or by really sending in the newer varieties of iris that they often have plenty of in their gardens but are either too indolent or else too procrastinating to send away. I feel, from my own experience, that they must give away a great deal to people who just come and take the things away rather than go to the trouble of labelling and tying up in a parcel and dispatching to a test garden. Then, also, they are a little stingy of good things, most of them. Those they want to hoard for themselves and, if they do not share what they have with the test gardens or send money to the A. I. S. to buy the new plants they have no right to criticize the Society for not having the newest varieties in their test gardens. Many members are generous but they are usually members who are

selling irises. Now these are the very ones who are the busiest, and also those that need their surplus plants most. They are being twice as generous as those who do not sell! Some members promise plants and then forget to send them. This is only human, of course, but I wish they would be inhuman; we need the plants! If the gardens are not of the condition they should be the apparent lack of interest in the members living in the vicinity who are supposed to form themselves into a committee to aid in the work going on at the garden, is to blame. These institutions are nearly all in need of more funds for the actual carrying on of their work and they welcome earnest workers willing to do small jobs connected with just this kind of thing.

I am anxious to have work done on Bulbous irises. I would like all the varieties possible to be collected together in one place and then to have names and synonyms straightened out, to have rating done and, in fact, to find out what is what. It seems to me that this can be done best in Holland and I believe, from some conversations I have had, that the Hollanders would be willing to undertake such a test with us if some of our members (we have English, French, Belgian and Dutch members) would help with the checking and study during the blooming season. More and more of the better Bulbous irises are being brought over here to be propagated and sold here and it seems as if now is the time to get busy and have this terrific tangle unravelled and wound into something that may be used in a worthwhile way for our benefit and for that of the raisers who should have proper recognition if they have produced worthy sorts.

I have sent to four test gardens some of Dr. Small's new native irises, two species to each of three and three to another, this makes nine different species to be tested. These varieties were sent in sufficient quantity to give a good block of plants quickly. The idea is to bag the flowers before they open, hand pollinize, "selfing," keep bagged; collect the seed and sow. Then check the variations, if any, and so determine their right to being considered true species and so decide a number of questions: Several species, unpublished as yet, will be worked on at the New York garden in addition to these sent out and as more are published and material becomes available the test will be spread.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Dr. Reed has been away all summer in Japan but the work was carried on here as usual. The collection will be materially increased by a number of plants of Japanese varieties which will be sent on by the Yokohama Nurseries at a suitable season for planting. These plants were collected by Dr. Reed or chosen by him from collections in Japan and will be a fine addition to the large collection already at the garden.

Cornell

There is nothing very different from the reports of other years to tell about this garden. The work is going on, the collection is being enlarged and is still in the hands of the able Mr. Pridham.

Iowa

Dr. Volz reports from Ames: "The iris blooming season preceded an unusually trying spell of hot and dry weather which fortunately did not affect

any but the very late varieties. We were able to secure fairly complete records on blooms and flowering dates. I am enclosing a list of the varieties which are now in the trial garden. This does not report all the material planted for we had a few losses due chiefly to late planting.

The trial garden for iris is operated in connected with a similar plot for peonies and miscellaneous perennials. All of the beds are ten by fifty feet in size and wherever possible we devote an entire row to a variety. About one-third of the iris are planted in the row method, the remaining in one and two clump plantings due to lack of material and space at the present time. The present trial garden is just a temporary proposition and the plans have already been made for an extensive new layout closer to the greenhouses and other gardens. I am hoping to be able to transfer some of the material early next fall. This new garden will give us ample room to grow not only the varieties in the trial garden but to make special features of some of the unusual fine varieties that require special emphasis. In giving this report I am frank to say that our chief handicap is technical assistance in taking of records.

Our experiments in the gladiolus trial garden is an authorized project in the experiment station brought about by the efforts of the Iowa Gladiolus Society. We are spending \$1220 on this project each year. Pressure is being brought to bear by both commercial florists and amateur garden interests to increase our appropriation in floriculture. A full time experiment station worker is being asked for and this will materially help in promoting the work with iris. Dr. R. M. Hughes, President of Iowa State College, is very much interested in the flower garden plantings here on the campus and we can count on his assistance in the future. This year, as in the past, thousands of visitors inspected the iris during the blooming season and a number of organized garden groups made special pilgrimages to see the flowers."

Missouri

Mr. P. A. Kohl writes from the Missouri Botanical Garden: "When this test garden was originally planted with irises, the plants being grouped together according to their color, space was provided for all of the varieties in the original draft of this garden. This color planting included many of the old varieties of irises, many of which are no longer obtainable. With the yearly addition of newer varieties it is becoming difficult to properly locate them according to their color until a study has been made of the varieties when in bloom a year or two after being received. As new varieties are received they are now planted in a separate garden, but which adjoins the original test plot. Here they are planted, irrespective of color or height, until such time as they can be incorporated into the original test plot, either by the elimination of the older varieties or the expansion of the plot.

The original plan included intermediate and dwarf varieties, but this created a spotty appearance in the garden. This summer all of the dwarf varieties were planted together in one bed and likewise all of the intermediates were grouped together. This will afford a more convenient way for studying and comparing the varieties in these two groups than by having them spread over a wide territory.

Were it not for the untiring efforts of Mrs. E. A. S. Peckham, this test garden would receive very few of the newer irises. The collection has been

much improved this year through the generosity of the Sass brothers and Mr. E. B. Williamson who have sent almost all of their latest introductions. Other donors have been Mrs. W. C. Brinton, of New York, Dr. Edgar Anderson from the John Innes Horticultural Institute, Merton, England, and Mr. Josiah Whitnel, East St. Louis, Illinois. The Garden thanks the contributors to this middle-west iris test garden.

The iris garden was completely labelled with the Simplex label during the blooming season, this type of label being a great improvement over the stamped zinc label. The stamped label is the most permanent kind, but cannot be easily read at a distance. These labels were immediately removed after the blooming period. The location of any iris variety can be determined by referring either to the card record or the chart of the garden.



Irises at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.

The display garden surrounding the Linnean House has been completely replanted during the past summer and now contains more than fifty good but reasonably priced varieties of tall bearded irises, planted in effective color groups.'

Morton

From Mr. E. L. Kammerer, Botanical Assistant at the Morton Arboretum we have the following: "As you know, the site of the original garden had to be abandoned two years ago because of poor drainage, the surviving plants being removed to the nursery where they have remained until this fall. The new test garden, containing some eight hundred varieties, was laid out in September within our hybrid lilac collection, an ideal site as regards soil, drainage and setting. The iris are arranged both alphabetically and in color groups so that they may be easily found and compared.

The outstanding weakness of our test garden, which as I see it, completely defeats the objective in mind, is its deplorable lack of the new and better varieties. Many visitors, coming here with the idea of seeing the latest introductions of which they have read and heard, leave very much disappointed, after finding only standard varieties with which they are already familiar. Surely there must be some way in which the newer things may find their way to us.

In addition to the several shipments received this summer from you, we were the recipients of plants from Mrs. Willard C. Brinton, New York City, and from the New York Botanical Garden. In most cases, however, the plants received were useless to us, being duplicates of those already in our collection."

New York

At the New York Botanical Garden the Alphabetical Collection had been replanted late in 1929 according to a new arrangement including varieties introduced and named since the original list was made. Varieties which appeared to be definitely obsolete were left out. A list of needs was made up and printed and during the early summer many varieties, priced up to and including one dollar each, were purchased from quite a number of different dealers who received with the order an appeal and a list of our needs. Many of these growers responded generously and we have filled a good many gaps in this garden and also in our Color Planting. We still need many varieties to bring the collection somewhere up to date and it is hard to know how to go about getting them. We cannot afford to buy the newest things and this money we did have was the gift of a member interested in improving the collection. We do not know if we will have any available for the next season.



At the "hospital" New York Botanical Garden, where Dr. Dodge tests Iris Diseases. John Borin and Anson Peckham packing well Iris Plants for distribution, 1930.

The whole garden has been gone over and relabelled. In the Color Planting we have discarded portions of large blocks of a variety to fill in with newer varieties. All this part of the garden is growing well and has been given good care, kept clean of pests and weeds and diseased leaves have been removed all summer. Sick plants really have been removed at once or have been treated with Semesan.

In fact all the iris plants have been treated with Semesan. Newly set plants have been dipped in a solution, watering has been done with it, the dry powder has been rubbed on rhizomes, has been sprinkled about plants. Beds have been mulched with peat-moss and the prospect for a good quantity of bloom next season is very good. A new rockery bed for some *canadensis* and *forrestii* crosses was made with great success as was a sort of rockery exten-



Anson Peckham, preparing Iris Plants for distribution, 1930, New York Botanical Garden. Here is an unsung hard worker for the A. I. S.

sion for Dwarf Bearded at the foot of the pretty pin-oak. New maps have been made of all the iris plantings and the catalogue is being brought up to date. Many, many plants were distributed to other test gardens.

In the Beardless Garden great improvements have been made and, at the beginning of the winter it is a very different place from the same time last year. Many of Dr. Stout's crosses of beardless irises which we felt had landscape value have been planted along the banks of the little stream. Heavy leaf-mould was put between these plants over the grass for we dug no bed to put them in. These irises (mostly *versicolor* and *sibirica* crosses) have grown

splendidly and give a very charming, naturalistic effect. This year I have had assigned to me for the iris work John Borin and I have been showing him what should be done to have such collections *right*. I have found him an interested and willing pupil, able to carry on my suggestions when I am not there to actually help with the work and the great improvement shown I feel is really due to his enthusiasm and application. He even managed to successfully construct a small bridge made from a huge *flag-stone* (how appropriate in an iris garden!) from rough plans drawn by me while I rushed to give a lecture somewhere. Considering that I never drew a plan for a piece of stonework before that speaks pretty well for his ingenuity.

In our trials judged this year for the first time we had some very fine things most of the best having been sent in by Mr. Williamson. A remarkable thing was to note among seedlings that were planted in the same group two, not yet introduced that were almost identical with Cinnabar except that they were not so floriferous, were slightly shorter and did not have the substance to stand up well under rainy weather. This seems rather startling in plants from quite different raisers and it goes to show that raisers should, more of them, send their plants in for trial before naming and introducing if we are to prevent all this duplication. Plants here, that had been judged two years have been distributed or returned or destroyed according to the wishes of the owners.

Numbers of plants from the Breeding Garden were planted in the Beardless Garden as were a good many of the new natives from the South. These were taken over in good quantity and only of varieties that had shown they would grow well with the hope that the public could have a chance of seeing what fine garden subjects they are.

All this is very easy to write down but it has taken an immense amount of time and work, endless labels to write and tie on, endless lists to make and have ready for an inspector, endless parcels to pack and tie and take to the express and post office, endless letters to write and records to make but it has been worth while and good fun.

Plants have been received from:

E. J. Alexander, Dr. W. McL. Ayres, L. Band, Bay State Nurseries, Dr. S. S. Berry, Mrs. M. Black, W. C. Blanchard, Mrs. W. C. Brinton, Brook Gardens, Miss Helen Ellender, Glen Road Iris Garden, Mrs. C. Groth, Howard & Smith, G. H. Hndson, Indian Spring Farms Inc., V. C. Johnson, Kenwood Iris Garden, J. D. Long Seed Co., Longfield Iris Farm, J. B. Marple, R. Marshall, Mrs. C. F. McKinney, Meadow Mountain Bulb Farm, F. C. Morgan, Mrs. B. S. Nelson, J. C. Nichols, Mrs. L. J. Paxton, Mrs. W. H. Peekham, Quality Gardens, C. E. Raynal, C. Salbach, Dr. J. K. Small, J. Soar, Southern California Iris Garden, C. Starker, Stumpp & Walter Co., Dr. A. E. Waller, R. Wayman, Weed Iris Gardens, Dr. E. T. Wherry, C. B. Wing.

Oklahoma

Professor R. H. Moore writes from the University of Oklahoma: "The trial garden is located on good, new prairie soil. The plants, which were grown in three-inch pots in the greenhouse since they were received, were set in permanent position November 25th. After planting the rows were carefully

mulched with partly decayed, moist straw. The weather has been very favorable for the establishing of good roots since the day of planting. Notes are being taken on the vigor of each plant at time of setting in the open." He has sent a list of varieties to be checked for the proper spelling of names and as they need many plants it is hoped that members in the West and Middle-West will send generously in the early springtime.

Saskatchewan

From Professor Patterson at the University of Saskatchewan we hear that their collection is increasing materially, that in some cases they have plants of the same variety from several sources. He says that they very much appreciate what is sent them and that they received a large collection from Cornell University, another from Mr. Carl Starker of Jennings Lodge, Oregon, and yet another from Mr. Cleveland Morgan, of Montreal. Plants were also sent him from the N. Y. Botanical Garden.

Texas

This collection is now in charge of Dr. S. H. Yarnell, Chief of the Division of Horticulture of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the work is being carried on. He writes: "I greatly appreciate your interest in the work here in Texas and would like any suggestions you may have in carrying it out."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors of plants and money, all these who have worked, all those who have contributed in any way to the work of carrying on these test gardens and the various activities of the committee.

1930 REPORT OF THE DISPLAY GARDEN COMMITTEE, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

1930 has been the addition of two new display gardens to those already affiliated with the American Iris Society. The first, at Sandpoint Idaho, was begun directly after the blooming season, set in color groups and subgroups as suggested by the recently-issued check list of the Society. A foundation stock of a hundred varieties was sent to the sponsors of the garden, the College of Agriculture of the University of Idaho; and standard sorts already growing at the Sandpoint Substation were used, beside additional gifts from individual gardeners and commercial growers.

The second garden has been planted at Deming Park, in Terre Haute, Indiana. Over five hundred varieties were set, about a fourth of these being supplied locally, and the others contributed by growers throughout the country. The Iris Society membership in Terre Haute numbers thirty, or more, and it is this group who have united to form the Terre Haute Iris Society, sponsors of the new garden.

The Bozeman (Montana) garden, under the supervision of the University of Montana's Agricultural Experiment Station, will soon establish a duplicate garden at Hamilton, in the Bitter Root Valley, where conditions are

quite different than at Bozeman, the growing season being generally longer and the winters less severe. Iris interest in this section of the country is very much on the increase, and these gardens will add very much to that interest.

With the planting at The Harvard Botanic Garden discontinued, the stock previously grown there has been transferred to the Lexington Botanic Garden, of which Mr. Stephen B. Hamblin is Director, and will there again be cared for by him.

Ten of the fifteen regional divisions of the Society are now represented with one or more Display Plantings—a total of thirty-four gardens. Each planting numbers from a hundred or so varieties to five hundred or more. Sponsors of each garden make an effort every season to keep the selection of varieties well above the average, hoping to offer, where it is easily available and in a pleasing setting, a representative collection correctly labeled, properly cared for, and kept up to date by frequent additions.

Grouped by regions, the following gardens are now in affiliation with the American Iris Society:

REGION I—NEW ENGLAND STATES

Durham, New Hampshire—sponsored by the University of New Hampshire, College of Agriculture; located on the college grounds.

Keene, New Hampshire—sponsored by the Keene Normal School, and planted on the school property.

Stonington, Connecticut—under the joint supervision of the Stonington Garden Club and the Historical Society; at The Old Lighthouse.

Storrs, Connecticut—in charge of the Connecticut Agricultural College, and growing at the College.

New Britain, Connecticut—at the Walnut Hill Park; sponsored by the Board of Park Commissioners.

New London, Connecticut—newly located at the Botanical Garden of Connecticut College, and in charge of the Dept. of Botany of the College.

Springfield, Massachusetts—jointly in charge of the Dept. of Public Parks and the Springfield Garden Club; situated in Forest Park.

Amherst, Massachusetts—supervised by the Massachusetts Agricultural College; on the College grounds.

Haverill, Massachusetts—sponsored by the Haverill Park Department; located at Winnekenni Park.

Lexington, Massachusetts—at the Lexington Botanic Garden, under the supervision of Lexington Gardens, Inc.

REGION II—NEW YORK

New Rochelle, Larchmont, Mount Vernon—All three gardens located on Public Library grounds, under the supervision of iris groups of Garden Clubs.

REGION III—EASTERN

Newark, New Jersey—garden located at Orange Park, City of Orange, and is in charge of the Essex County Park Commission.

New Brunswick, New Jersey—sponsored by the State of New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station; on the Station grounds.

Seranton, Pennsylvania—in charge of the Iris Garden Committee, Garden Dept., of the Seranton Century Club; at Nay Aug Park.

REGION V—SOUTH ATLANTIC

Goldsboro, North Carolina—under joint supervision of the Garden Club and of the Dept. of Parks; located at Herman Park.

Columbia, South Carolina—sponsored by the City of Columbia and by the Garden Club of Columbia; at Valley Park.

LaGrange, Georgia—in charge of the Greenhouses, Cason J. Callaway Company; situated near the LaGrange Log Cabin.

Atlanta, Georgia—located at the High Museum of Art; sponsored by the Peachtree Garden Club.

REGION VI—NORTH CENTRAL STATES

Goodland, Indiana—supervised jointly by the Garden Club and by the Park Board; at Foster Park, on U. S. Highway 24.

Terre Haute, Indiana—at Deming Park; sponsored by the Terre Haute Iris Society.

REGION VII—SOUTH CENTRAL

Memphis, Tennessee—The Memphis Garden Club, aided by the Park Commission will sponsor this planting.

Lookout Mountain, Tennessee—located at the Park, Lookout Mountain, supervised by the Lookout Mountain Garden Club.

REGION VIII—NORTH BORDER

Duluth, Minnesota—sponsored jointly by the Duluth Peony and Iris Society and the Park Dept. of Duluth; planted at Portland Square.

Fargo, North Dakota—in charge of the Dept. of Horticulture, N. D. Agricultural Experiment Station; on the Station grounds.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin—at Sherman Park; jointly supervised by the Milwaukee County Horticultural Society and the Park Commission.

REGION IX—PRAIRIE STATES

Belleville, Illinois—sponsored by St. Henry's College; located on the College grounds.

Topeka, Kansas—at Gage Park; under supervision of the Topeka Horticultural Society.

Lincoln, Nebraska—jointly in charge of the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture and the Lincoln Garden Club; at the College.

REGION X—SOUTH BORDER

Dallas, Texas—The Garden Club of Dallas supervise the planting along the Parkway, in Highland Park, West.

REGION XI—NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN

Bozeman, Montana—sponsored by the Montana State College; located on the College campus.

Hamilton, Montana—also in charge of the Montana State College; situated at the Hamilton station (Corvallis postoffice).

Sandpoint, Idaho—under the supervision of the University of Idaho, Agricultural Experiment Station, at the Sandpoint substation.

Further extension and the maintainance of present gardens depend entirely upon the supply of plants available. Since the increase from established display plantings has proven insufficient to supply the stock necessary for both new and older gardens, the Committee must depend upon the generosity of the owners of private collections for further advance in the number and quality of Display Gardens. With no regular source of supply, it seems necessary to make an annual appeal for aid in carrying on the work of the Committee, though it is hoped that some definite source of supply may be arranged in the near future.

OLIVE B. HOORNBECK,
Chairman, Display Garden Committee.

LIST OF 1930 DONORS OF DISPLAY GARDENS

Donors to the Terre Haute, Indiana, Display Garden, established in 1930 are Col. J. C. Nichols, 4 varieties; Northbrook, 6; Longfield Iris Farm, 37; Mr. Thomas M. Fendall, 1; Mr. Carl Salbach, 18; Mr. E. O. Essig, 9; Farr Nursery Company, 25; Missouri Botanical Garden, 130; Miss Grace Sturtevant, 12; River Garden, 7; Fairy Garden, 10; Thimlar Nursery, 20; Quality Gardens, 24; Mr. Jacob Sass, 9; Mr. J. Marion Shull, 3; Mr. J. W. Magruder, 18; Kenwood Iris Gardens, 21; Mr. O. M. Pudor, 5; Mr. H. P. Sass, 16; Miss Louise E. Elliott, 2; Twin Elms, 10; Mr. F. X. Schreiner, 23; Mr. Walter Timmerman, 3; Edgevale Gardens, 2; Vaughn's Seed Store, 1; Mr. G. B. Tuthill, 1; Lark Meadow, 14; Mrs. H. T. Watts, 2; Mr. R. Marshall, 2; Local growers, 139.

1930 DONORS TO THE DULUTH, MINNESOTA GARDEN (ESTABLISHED 1928)

Mr. A. M. Brand, Mr. C. E. Pfeiffer, Mr. Jacob Sass, Riverview Gardens, Silmar Gardens, Quality Gardens, Mr. F. X. Schreiner.

1930 DONORS TO THE BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS PLANTING (ESTABLISHED IN 1928)

Longfield Iris Farms, Bluffton, Indiana; Mr. Joe Whitnel, Signal Hill, East St. Louis.

DONORS TO THE NEW SANDPOINT IDAHO GARDEN (1930)

J. F. Stewart, Moscow, Idaho; C. W. Hungerford, Moscow, Idaho; John Rensberg, Bound Brook, New Jersey; Olympia Bulb Company, Olympia, Washington; Display Garden Committee, A. I. S.

DISPLAY PLANTING AT GOODLAND, INDIANA (ESTABLISHED 1929)—GIFTS FROM

Mrs. Frank Kennedy, Goodland; Mr. Arthur G. Mitten, Goodland; Brook Gardens, Goodland; Dr. J. G. Kinneman, Goodland; Mrs. Brewster Hoornbeek, Goodland.

Mrs. Nesmith supplied gardens in her region, the New England States.

Dr. Nancy Jennison, Bound Brook, N. J., offered Siberian varieties to the Fargo, N. D., Garden.

Mr. F. X. Schreiner gave generously to his North Border region, and other gardens.

It is possible that this list is not complete, but all other gifts, while not acknowledged here, because of incomplete reports from the various gardens, are greatly appreciated.

THE QUALITY OF TEST AND DISPLAY GARDENS RESTS UPON THE CONTINUED INTEREST OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN THE LOCALITY. We owe almost too much to Mrs. Peckham and Mrs. Hoornbeek for their indefatigable interest and actual labors.

REGIONAL REPORTS

BOISE, IDAHO—DAVID C. PETRIE

The past season has seen a continuing interest in the cult of the iris. At our neighboring town of Caldwell only 30 miles away the garden folk take a real interest in them. There they want to know who they are and something about them. The same thing is true of the rose. Caldwell boasts of a rather large membership in the American Rose Society. They are however apparently uninterested in membership in the A. I. S. or at least yours truly has been unable to sell it to them. At the same time they are I feel, more interested in Iris, Roses and Peonies for what they are, than any other town in the state. Here an iris is an iris what ever its appearance. Down there if it isn't a Prospero, or a Magnifica or a something worth while, it is quite apt to go in the alley.

The Woman's Club down there has for six or seven or eight, and I think it is eight years, sponsored a spring flower show. It is primarily an iris show. In all that time they have been unfortunate enough to pick me out to judge the thing. The first one was a fright; lots of iris, mostly Sans Souci, et all. Now they put on a real one, though of course none of the really new things make their appearance. Folks out here can't afford to pay the price. However, I've seen some of the better of the now medium priced sorts such as Magnifica, Prospero, Mlle. Schwartz, Ambassadeur, Ballerine and that kind that would literally knock your eyes out. There was a spike of Prospero shown a year ago that must have been at least 42 inches in height and thinking of it now it had six or eight good branches with a spread of perhaps 18 inches or more. It was simply the most magnificent Iris spike I ever saw. Then we have apparently color that doesn't happen in California at least. One of my Caldwell friends was in Los Angeles last year doing Post Graduate work. Of course he and his wife wended their way to Milliken's several times. They told me that we simply were so far ahead of them in coloring that there was no comparison. They were out there one day when Miss Sturtevant was present.

Next season will see a few new Iris faces in the Caldwell Show. Frieda Mohr and some more of the newer ones are making their way in to that territory. Personally I bought fifteen new ones (to me) this season. Of course to the aristocracy of the land of the cod and the bean they are old and perhaps hopelessly out of date but I think I'll get a pretty good show out of same. Aphrodite, Gay Hussar, Bruno, Cardinal, Coppersmith and some more of the same.

The seedlings that we saved out of the mess a year ago did not do anything this year. They are now established in fine shape again and have made very nice clumps. I was very much interested in the picture of Mr. Sass and Wamblika. From the picture it looks like the spitting image of my recollection of the best of those white seedlings. We will see in the spring when they bloom again. If Walter Hearne would keep sticking at the iris pollination I think he would have some lovely ones.

BERKELEY, CALIF.—E. O. ESSIG

I wish to report that the activities of the Pacific Division of the American Iris Society have been about the same as usual. Iris exhibits were made by the

Southern California Iris Gardens and Dr. S. S. Berry at the Pasadena Flower Show held at Pasadena April 16-18. Another exhibit was also made by Dr. Berry in the Redlands Flower Show which occurred a few days later. In the northern part of the state the most outstanding iris exhibits were made by Carl Salbach and other iris fanciers in the San Francisco Bay region at the large flower show in Oakland, April 2-4.

There is a growing interest in the iris in this region. I think this is partly due to the creation of hybrids which are especially suitable for the climate in our area. With the rapid increase of garden clubs and the corresponding increase in the interest of flower growing, we are sure that the iris is going to push forward very rapidly in the next few years.

DALLAS, TEXAS—MRS. GROSS R. SCRUGGS

During the past year the interest in Iris-growing has increased one hundred-fold in this section. Inquiries have been received almost daily as to where iris can be secured, and information asked as to cultivation and the proper time of planting. Not only the larger cities, but the near-by towns have become alive to the beauties of Iris, and collectors have been heard from from many places.

The quantity and quality of the iris displayed at our flower-shows, has shown very marked improvement, and the Iris Division has always been a crowded point of interest.

It has been my pleasure as State President of the Texas Federation of Gardens Clubs, to visit many of our Garden Clubs over the State. Whenever the subject of Iris is mentioned, and its peculiar adaptability to our soil conditions and locality, immediately a keen interest is aroused. My policy has been to advise the appointment of an Iris Chairmanship in every club in our Federation.

In the Spring, I was asked to give an illustrated lecture on Iris in Tyler—the little city that is surrounded by numbers of large Rose-propagating nurseries, from which many car-loads of roses are shipped to the wholesale markets each year—and I took that opportunity of using the American Iris Society Slides. The amount of interest shown, and the keen appreciation of the slides was most gratifying.

The Iris Society in Dallas, (which organization was inspired by the visit of our national President, Mr. John C. Wister)—under the leadership of Mrs. Murrell L. Buckner has aroused much interest and enthusiasm in Iris-growing—exhibited by the surprisingly beautiful, as well as numbers of blossoms at the Iris Show, a one-flower exhibition, held at the Dallas Woman's Club in April. Reports given at the fall meeting of this society, developed the fact that actually thousands of iris have been planted, and equally as many have been given away by members of this society to their friends, and to public institutions during the planting season.

Next year I hope to have a detailed report on some of the newer Iris. I am keeping an Indexed Account (based on the classification given by Mrs. Peckham in the Iris Check List) of those iris that I own (to be supplemented by information on other varieties owned by other iris-growers in this section) that will form a basis of the account of those varieties that are hardiest and

best adapted to our long summer heat; and a further check-up on the time of planting found best for our section (for this year's experience has again demonstrated the fact that the best time to plant is May and June, because many planted in July were lost.)

Information on bulbous iris is also incomplete. Whether they will multiply or die out; whether they can be naturalized, here, as jonquils are—remaining in the ground from season to season—so that we can depend on them, or whether it will develop that they will be more like the tulips, which have to be replanted, here, about every second year . . . all this will have to be determined. The Siberian Iris has already proved a valuable asset to our gardens; and we have great hopes for many other of the beautiful varieties.

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Compiled by ETHEL ANSON S. PECKHAM

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TID-BITS 27TH

From Hugh M. A. McEachran, Montreal

In answer to your letter asking me to contribute to your article on "Iris Canada" notes on the outstanding varieties of iris which have appealed to me, with special emphasis on Canadian seedlings, I am sending you the following. I do not know exactly what to say as my experience has been very limited. I think, however, that undoubtedly the outstanding Canadian seedling to date is your own Siberian iris "Caesar," and the hundreds of variations on it that you have raised, many of which I saw in your garden last Summer. There was one in particular, very tall, 54 inches I think by actual measurement, and a beautiful rich blue, but lighter and quite different to Caesar, that was magnificent. There were certainly several others that were quite as fine, if not finer than Caesar.

Among the bearded irises I think probably the finest Canadian seedling I have seen is again your own Mount Royal. In any garden it is almost identical with Duke of Bedford, in fact, it is hard to tell them apart unless you see the flowers side by side. Next to this I like your very dark purple which I believe is still unnamed. With me it is quite tall and a wonderful deep color, better than Robert W. Wallace. The standards are very much darker and the whole flower richer in tone.

Lorraine Morgan is also very good, but has not enough substance to withstand great heat although the colour is quite lovely, better than Susan Bliss. Hochelaga I have only had for one year so could not judge it properly, but I imagine it would be finer as a landscape variety than as an individual flower. Of all the irises I have ever grown, I think undoubtedly, Purissima is the most beautiful. It is a wonderful large flower, pure white with a yellow beard, of perfect form carried on tall strong stems. With me it has been perfectly

hardy as far as cold goes. I have had Purissima, Wm. Mohr, Argentina, Mme. Durand and others of this class withstand our winters for three or four years with no covering whatever and they have not been injured in the least by the cold. What does cause trouble, however, with these more tender varieties, is the period after the snow has gone, during the latter part of March and the month of April when we get cold dull weather with rain and the ground is kept cold and damp for days at a time with constant thawing and freezing. This causes root rot to start and it is very hard to check at this time of year. As you know I am planning to get some glass bells out from France to cover the more tender irises thus protecting them from the cold rains of early spring.

Mme. Durand is a wonderful iris and a great favorite of mine. I think I like it next to Purissima. Wm. Mohr is also very beautiful when it flowers, but it has only flowered once for me so far although I now have quite a nice clump of it.

Of the better known irises, my favorites are Princess Beatrice, Asia, Day Dream, Mary Gibson, Pioneer, Aurelle, Steepway, Ambassador, Ballerine, Isoline and Peerless. I have also a few seedlings of my own, still unnamed, from which I am hoping great things.

As regards the treatment of iris in Canada, I find it advisable to get all planting, dividing, etc., done *before August 1st* as then the plants have time to get thoroughly established before the autumn and there is no danger of heaving the following spring. The only plants I have ever lost were some that were sent to me during September, and did not have a chance to get firmly rooted before winter set in. The rhizomes were heaved right out of the ground the following spring and did not survive. If it is quite impossible to get the iris delivered before the 15th August at the very latest, I find it best to plant them in large flower pots, 10 to 14 inches—half pots do nicely, and keep them in a cold greenhouse for the Winter, planting them out the following May. This can be done without disturbing the roots at all.

When I am going to plant a new row of iris I prepare the ground by digging a trench about one foot deep. This I fill level to the top with manure and then replace the earth on top of the manure. This makes quite a high mound at first, but if the bed is prepared in September or October or even April or early May, it has settled down considerably by the following July, when I do

the planting, and the top of the bed being raised a little makes for good drainage. I plant the rhizomes as Miss Sturtevant recommends, "like a duck sitting on the water." I never use lime, but with some of the more tender varieties I mix a little sand with the earth, and I am very little troubled with root rot, although the soil in my garden is fairly heavy.

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From R. Jackson Hopper, Montreal

As you know 1930 was an off season for flowers and the irises suffered from too little sun and too much moisture. Conditions similar to those of the iris flowering season in England existed in Montreal last season and now I realize why the much advertised Bliss hybrids are so highly admired by our English friends. Cardinal, Majestic, Bruno, Swazi, Titan, Pioneer and the other Dominion children were marvelous and in spite of the excess of moisture, did not suffer from root rot as has been the case almost every year since I got them. They are now planted on a sandy soil containing peat moss, clay and cow manure, reasonably heavy, but with good drainage and are thriving in our cold climate.

The outstanding flower of 1930, was Dykes' Aphrodite, glorious blooms, 25 flowers on three stalks almost five feet high and nearly all in bloom at the same time, the top flowers measuring nearly seven inches. Around the plants were some clumps of *Aquilegia* (Scott Elliott strain) of a pink color which made a finely blended colour spot for a week or two.

Several Mohr-Mitchell hybrids were especially good. One, a blend of Ramona and Shekinah, which Mr. Mitchell did not consider worthy of a name, was as fine a yellow as any in the garden. The much advertised Amber is not nearly so good, nor is Chasseur, a muddy streaked yellow at times and very variable in my garden, although it does show an occasional clear bloom. The brown spots at the base of the falls seem to vary into streaks in some seasons and are evidently like the spots developed by W. R. Dykes since its introduction. As a garden yellow my preference runs to Colias, of Williamson, and Miss Sturtevant's Shekinah, provided the latter is not planted in full sunlight so that it fades. None of the later yellows of Miss Sturtevant's has equalled Shekinah in my garden and have all proved shy bloomers.

Mr. Mitchell sent me two seedlings, a few years ago, which have been much admired. One, Frieda Mohr, has since been introduced

and is a beautiful flower with flat horizontal falls, a much lighter edition of Lent A. Williamson, with a yellow cast to the standards—a really worth-while plant. The other, Don Quixote, is a smoky blend of the same type—quite good. The California seedlings of Dr. Sydney B. Mitchell (now being introduced by Salbach) with their mixture of mesopotamica bloom, seem to thrive in Montreal, although they take time to get established and are not as prolific bloomers as one would like. They are the outstanding developments of the iris world in the past five years and with good drainage provided and a not too heavy soil I see no reason why they cannot be grown successfully in Canada. Wm. Mohr has flowered in my garden without protection. The Denis seedlings exhibit the same traits, only, if anything, are more shy at blooming than the California hybrids.

It may interest some that I have produced an improved Lent A. Williamson. The colour is identical but the flower is an inch and a half larger—the stalks are six inches taller and the flowers not so crowded on the stalks. This has bloomed for two years now and next to Aphrodite has been as fine as anything in the garden. It was obtained by crossing the pollen of Alcazar with Mme. Chereau and of thirteen seedlings only one is at all like Lent A. Williamson. The others were all rose purple edged Chereaus. Speaking of plicatas of the Mme. Chereau type, some fine improvements have been made in these of recent years with greatly improved flowers. One of my favourites is Rheingauperlé, a beautiful blend of soft ivory pink, not very highly rated in the iris check list, but a fine soft colour in the garden, and when better known, it will be much appreciated.

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From Charles Bauckham, Toronto

My interest in the Iris has extended over the past ten years and each year I have imported some of the newer varieties from England, France, Germany and United States. My interest is confined chiefly to the Germanica species, although some of the outstanding varieties in other species have been acquired from time to time. My impression is that up until about three years ago England held the leadership in introducing outstanding new varieties but during the past three years Cayeaux and LeClere have earned the premier position for France, with indications that the United States will occupy a very high place during the present and immediately succeeding years.

Iris is wonderfully suited to climatic conditions in this part of Canada. While they must be given some special care during their first winter, this is largely due to the dangers from thawing and freezing rather than from the low temperatures. Even the varieties with Ricardii or Mesopotamica blood give a good account of themselves after the first year unless moved, when they still require some special attention.

Outside of the very new varieties which are not yet fully tested my favorite is Sir Michael because of its intriguing and fascinating combination of rich colouring. I am inclined to believe however that the most beautiful Iris in my garden, even after comparing it with much newer varieties, is Vilmorin's Ballerine. Considering gracefulness, poise, shape and texture of bloom, it is magnificent and on the few occasions I have exhibited Iris, Ballerine has nearly always been my outstanding exhibition bloom.

Of the Dominion seedlings I am inclined to give the leadership to Romola, with Cardinal not far behind. The color combinations and texture of Bruno are outstanding but the placement of bloom is not in its favor. Loetitia Michaud and Mme. Cecile Bouscant, two Ricardi varieties are outstanding, the former probably the largest bloom in my garden, and the latter the most outstanding among pink varieties. These have been given special care and it is only after three years that I have sufficient bloom to adequately judge their value. Midgard, with its fine color combination of lighter variety, is very attractive and when better known, will undoubtedly be very much in demand. Of the newer varieties I expect to bloom this year Député Nomblot, Mrs. Valerie West, Numa Rumestan, Don Juan, San Francisco, Dolly Madison, and a large number of other widely advertised varieties.

I am looking forward to the time when new Canadian seedlings will find a place among the world's best, although the growth of seedlings on such a colossal scale as undertaken by leading producers in other countries is lacking, as far as I am aware, among Canadians. There are however some individuals who are giving a lot of time to this fascinating work, more as a hobby than as a business.

I have read about Mount Royal but have not seen it. I have seen Lorraine Morgan, a wonderful tall pink Pallida, and Caesar, an outstanding dark variety of the Siberica species. These were at the Ottawa experimental farm.

I have grown several thousand new hand fertilized seedlings. While there are some outstanding varieties among them, they do not seem to have sufficient quality to place them ahead of existing varieties. I am looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to seeing them bloom again this year and particularly to seeing a new bed of about a thousand seedlings which will bloom for the first time and which are the result of greater care in the choice and combination of parentage.

In conclusion I would like to suggest that a great deal could be done in Canada, particularly in Toronto and vicinity, to widen the interest in Iris. We have no trial plots and Irises are not given prominence in public gardens with the result that the newer and finer sorts can be seen only by comparatively few people, and I would be heartily in favor of any move that would create a wider interest in this beautiful flower.

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From J. W. Grow, Simcoe, Ontario.

I have been growing modern high class irises for many years and for the past three years have had the rare privilege of looking over frequently the remarkable collection gathered together in Simcoe by Mr. H. H. Groff, of gladiolus fame. I have kept careful notes and observations for my own guidance, using a color classification of my own. In spite of my earnest attempts at clarity and of the unusual opportunity I have had for getting acquainted with new varieties, I am conscious chiefly of a feeling of confusion with regard to varieties in general.

It is some seven or eight years since I came under the spell of Dominion, of which the individual flowers are, to my mind, flawlessly perfect in form, texture and color. Since then I have, of course, used Dominion as a standard of perfection, although I do not wish to imply that Dominion form is necessarily more perfect than that of certain other varieties. I think the form of Susan Bliss most beautiful indeed and am unable to find fault either with the form of Bastien LePage. My feeling of confusion is due, I think, to a deeper and more basic feeling of disappointment. Perhaps I have expected too much. I have been looking for flowers of Dominion quality on strong growing, free blooming, tall plants, with good branching habit and proper poise of bloom. Thus far I have failed to see anything even approximating my ideal.

I will say only that in my opinion the situation calls earnestly for a Variety Symposium on the lines of the Gladiolus Symposium

published by the Canadian Society. I believe this is the best guide to gladiolus varieties available in print and know that it is used by a large number of our members as a reliable evaluation of nearly 800 gladiolus varieties now in commerce in Canada. Not the least important feature of such a Symposium is the fact that many varieties formerly prominent are now shown to be outclassed and relatively undesirable. This is the only serious effort I know of on the part of any flower specialty organization to eliminate from commerce the host of varieties found by experience to be inferior and unsatisfactory.

The Iris world is due for a flood, to put it mildly, of new things. I would like to see the best of them attain their proper position as leaders as quickly as possible. This obviously involves the elimination of a large number of varieties which can well be spared and should be dropped forthwith.

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From L. W. Cousins, London, Ontario.

Iris species, I believe, are as yet rarely grown. Mr. E. M. S. Dale of this city is successful with the *oncochrysus*, *regelia* species, and their hybrids. I understand, he lifts the roots and replants in the fall. Mr. W. E. Saunders also grows *Hoogiana* and *reticulata* and goodness knows what else in his garden of surprises. His is a garden to be studied. Every stroll around the paths reveals something new and interesting previously unnoticed.

My own experience has only been with the bearded sorts and is so recent that I have formed no definite opinions as yet. My chief interest is raising seedlings and I am doing the usual thing in using the *Dominion* and *Mesopotamica* strains and trying for good yellows. Lack of comparison with the newest varieties leaves me free to exercise my own taste in eliminating the undesirables. The soil is clay loam and the plants are grown on raised beds. The greatest trouble experienced was rot, due, I think, to fertilizing with bone meal and lime. Acid phosphate has been the only fertilizer used during the last two or three years and the garden has been relatively free from rot. Even the *Mesopotamica* hybrids give no trouble from this source.

My enthusiasm does not permit the expression of an unbiased opinion on the future of the iris here. But the opinions of those in whom I have considerable confidence leads me to believe that the vogue of the iris is only beginning.

From Kenneth McDonald, Ontario.

In response to your inquiry regarding irises, it is unfortunate that through lack of time I was unable to make notes on individual varieties except in the briefest way. I do not recall any year which rewarded us with finer blooms at Maplewood than 1930. Irises were at their best on June 8th, the finest of about 300 varieties on that day being Bruno, Debussy, Esplendido, Evadne, Gabriel, Harmony, Hochelaga, Le Corregge, Lent A. Williamson, Mrs. Marion Cran, Michel-Ange, Mignard, Mount Royal, Morning Splendor, Mme. Henri Cayeux, Princess Beatrice, Tenebrae, Watteau and Yolande. Mount Royal and Mignard (Vilmorin) attracted more attention than any others. Some sorts not quite so outstanding, but nevertheless of great beauty were: Abenda, Aphrodite, Benoni, Brenthis, Cassandra, Colias, Chalice, Duke of Bedford, Dream, Flambeau, Germain Perthuis, Gladys Roberts, Gold Imperial, Harpalion, Hon. Mrs. Kingscote, Emperor, Iris King, Majestic, Miranda, Nathalis, Sirius, Vega, Yolande.

Our winters at Ottawa are quite cold, the thermometer at times dropping to many degrees below zero. With few exceptions tall bearded irises have proven perfectly hardy, the only protection they receive is the natural snowfall. Our summers are usually



At MacDonald College.

quite hot, conditions on the whole being ideal for the growth of these charming garden subjects.

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From William Miles, Ingersoll, Ont.

Bulbous. It would seem that the Juno section, or at any rate, certain members of that section, are worthy of wider cultivation in this country. Three of these that have been satisfactory in this district are—Sind-pers, six inches high, pale blue with yellow signal patch; sindjarensis, ten inches, blooms about the middle of May and about a month later than Sind-pers; bucharica, also middle of May, white and yellow, and really a wonderful beauty for the rock garden.

Culture. Some which have remained in the soil for several years are in good condition. This may be in part due to the dry season during the last two autumns. I take up some each year, carefully preserving the fleshy roots intact, as a sort of insurance against a wet season and replant in October.

Iris persica has repeatedly failed, perhaps due to the fact that really good bulbs are impossible to obtain to start with.

Iris reticulata and its variety Krelagei thrive immensely in my clay and also in the sandy soil in the London district. Krelagei seems to be the better multiplier, soon forming good colonies. Cantab, a variety of reticulata, in Melville Dale's London garden was a good pale blue as its name implies. These should be in every iris enthusiast's rock garden.

Lesser known Pogoniris. Early dwarfs, including pumila and the chamaeiris hybrids were particularly good in this section in 1930. Elenko (Mrs. Dykes) is promising. It is a true pumila (long perianth tube and short stem), the reddest I've seen in that section. These true pumilas seem to be shy seeders, which perhaps accounts for the scarcity of new varieties. One can buy dozens of so-called pumilas, but almost invariably they are not the true thing.

André's Lieut. de Chavagnac, which blooms well in the Autumn is desirable, as a good iris in the fall is welcome. The Lieutenant takes after aphylla, and is much like many of the so-called pumilas mentioned above. Jean Siret is a rather impure yellow, autumn-blooming dwarf, and may be useful as a breeder.

Iris Reichenbachii flowered in Mr. Saunders' garden in May and is a yellow dwarf.

Regelias and Regelio-cyclus. Mr. Melville Dale, London, gets a wonderful show with Van Tubergen's Regelio-cyclus hybrids. They are taken up as soon as the leaves begin to yellow, stored dry till October, and replanted about October 15th, covering them with two inches, well rotted farmyard manure during Winter. They flower and increase readily as also does the beautiful blue Hoogiana, stolunifera and Korolkowi, though perhaps they are not quite so vigorous as the hybrids.

Apogons. Iris delavayi and I. bulleyana did not survive the drought of 1930, but lived through 1929. Wilsoni and Forrestii do not flower as freely as the sibirica varieties if subjected to dry conditions. Ochroleuca and aurea are sometimes shy bloomers, and the variety Shelford Giant is freer than either. I. foliosa flowers well and gets along without protection, and doesn't seem to resent the drought as badly as some of the Apogons. I. graminea is free flowering under ordinary border conditions, quite dwarf, and green-gage scented. No one around here seems to grow the Japanese iris well.

H. H. Groff's Garden. Mr. Groff at Simcoe has a collection of 500 high class commercial varieties, which he culls relentlessly to obtain a very high standard. It is impossible to do this collection justice in these notes. All the Mohr-Mitchell varieties of note are there as well as the European varieties, Pluie d'Or in great profusion. He had about 10,000 seedlings of advanced breeding, many exceptionally fine. I call to mind a large tall cream-ground plicata; a tall deep yellow much like Pluie d'Or, but not from that variety; and a much larger better formed Dalila. This year there are many thousand new seedlings to bloom. These are from the best procurable varieties from all sources and along with the collection of named varieties, should be well worth seeing. In this garden a variety soon goes to the dump if it lacks constitution. If all raisers would stress vigor first, it would save the buying public many disappointments and in the end would increase the demand for novelties. How often have we paid good money for someone's latest marvel, to find it no better than some of the old varieties, and in addition to find it the possessor of a delicate constitution (see English Iris Soc. Bull. No. 7 p. 27).

The London Growers. Canadian Horticulture has suffered a great loss in the untimely death of Mr. S. F. Wood, one of the leading practical exponents of the Art in Ontario. Fortunately

his son inherits much of the father's enthusiasm for irises, and it is to be expected that the work will be carried on. A good collection is maintained at the summer home at Kilworth, just west of London, and in late years some excellent seedlings have made their appearance there. Two of the older seedlings that always look well are No. 426, a very deep purple of wonderful substance and No. 5176, a tall blend of pink and yellow. These are absolutely reliable bloomers. A *siberica* seedling also was good—a very deep reddish purple self.

L. W. Cousins has done, and is doing, great work. He has worked with some of the Mohr-Mitchell hybrids, combining them with selected Dominions, and the resultant seedlings show great promise, having height and size to spare and excellent substance. He also has some wonderful yellows. (Melville Dale, a good judge, remarked that most of us could throw our Irises away, and pick out a better lot entirely from Cousins seedlings). (See Canadian Horticulturist July, '30, p. 198).

* * * * *

From W. T. Macoun, Ottawa.

It will be difficult to write, in a few words, all that I should like to say about the newer irises as I am an iris enthusiast and am liable to be led into many words in describing their charms.

Our main collection of tall bearded iris was established in 1895 when the number of iris enthusiasts and iris breeders were very few. Since then it has been our aim to add to our collection the newer varieties, which we felt fairly sure were improvements over older ones and the prices for which were within our means and, from time to time, to discard those which, although we dislike parting with old friends, were distinctly inferior. Our object is to maintain a collection of the best though not always are the newest best included in it as the price is prohibitive. Hence certain new varieties of great merit would no doubt be mentioned if we had them. Some of the finest are, also, too tender for Ottawa.

We have, at present, 359 varieties in our collection.

Beginning with the lightest in color, Milky Way and Mystic appeal to me very much and will, I fancy, remain in our collection for some time, though White Knight is still my favorite white.

The yellows or near yellows are rapidly increasing in number. Shekinah still remains one of the best here, but Gold Imperial and Flutterby are fine. Aliquippa was, perhaps, the most striking

looking yellow iris here in 1930. The flower was much the largest of any we have in our collection and while it might be taller it was impressive. Chasseur is still one of our best and Moonlight very charming among the near yellows, as also Citronella.

Dream is, I think, still my favorite pink. It is well named. Its charms are so delightful it may be said to be "less of earth than heaven." Other near pink varieties in our collection are Lady Byng, Susan Bliss, Mrs. Marion Cran, Lorraine Morgan, Rheingau-perle, Aphrodite and Delight. I am not at all sure as to which of these I should care to part with as they are all so good but Susan Bliss retains a high place in these near pink varieties. It is later than most, which gives it additional value. Mrs. Marion Cran and Lorraine Morgan are very similar but the latter is a Canadian variety hence we have the greater affection for it. Lady Byng is very charming. I don't know why it is but Aphrodite always seems a cold beauty to me. Rheingau-perle appeals to one and will, no doubt, grow in our esteem.

Among the darker irises Mount Royal is one of my greatest favorites. Aurelle comes, perhaps, nearest to it among the varieties we grow here. Pioneer is not so good. Germaine Perthuis I do not like as well as these. Tropic Seas with its very conspicuous yellow beards is a good one.

There are so many varieties among the bluish-purple or lavender irises that I hesitate to mention any of the newer ones that are better than those we have had for some years.

Among other newer irises with which I was very favorably impressed in 1930 are Fismes and Lord Lambourne. There are so many of the newer irises which we buy that, instead of being better, are poorer than the old. Our motto now, so far as irises are concerned, is "Seeing is Believing."

I should like, before closing, to refer to Caesar, among the beardless iris. It is of a glorious color and much admired here. I must also say a little about the varieties Miss Preston has produced by crossing *I. sibirica* var. *maxima* with *I. orientalis* var. *Snow Queen*. There are, among the many varieties obtained from this cross and from the second generation, some of the most delightful shades of blue as well as some very good whites which we are comparing carefully with *Snow Queen*. Some of them are considerably taller than *Snow Queen* and, among the blues, there are some very tall ones. Some of these were exhibited in England and drew very favorable comment. Names and descriptions of the

best of these appear in the Annual Report for 1928 of the Horticultural Division, Ottawa. They are called Abitibi, Chaudiere, Gatineau, Kootenay, Madawaska, Mattawin, Nipigon, Pembina, Rideau and Richelieu, after Canadian rivers. Two named by Viscountess Byng are China Blue and Ottawa.

We have also many varieties from a cross made by Miss Preston between *I. ochroleuca* and *I. aurea*. The seedlings of the first generation resemble *I. ochroleuca* but in some of them the yellow patch is larger and the falls broader. None of these have yet been named. This cross was, I believe, originally made by Sir Michael Foster and the name *I. ochaurea* given to it.

* * * * *

From C. Berkeley, Wellington, B. C.

My own experience on iris has been entirely on Vancouver Island where, as you know, the climatic conditions are practically those of the south of England which means that almost all of the irises in cultivation can be (and are) grown in one garden or another. There are a number of people growing professionally both on the island and the mainland, but they, of course, go in mainly for Germanicas any of which can be grown without difficulty anywhere here. Mr. Simpson, of Cowichan Lake on Vancouver Island has a very fine collection of species and I have myself grown a great many of them.

Such *reticulatas* and *junos* as I have tried have done very well. *I. persica* var. *sieheana* is in flower in my garden at the time of writing, Jan. 31. *Bucharica* and *Orchioides* grow and increase annually without any particular care. The Spanish irises do not do as well with me as in many other gardens I know on the island, and near Vancouver. They do particularly well in the interior, the hot dry summer suiting them well. With me the "English Irises" (*Xiphoides*) are more successful. Of the *Evansias*, I have had much success only with *tectorum* and *gracilipes*—I find the former needs special protection from slugs. *I. japonica* has never flowered with me, but I have seen it doing very well in Mr. Simpson's garden at Cowichan.

I have been chiefly interested in the *apogons*. All the *Sibiricas* do very well with me, and I have a fairly large range of them. I have had very fine specimens of *chrysographes*, originally obtained from van Tubergen; *I. delavayi* has also done well and I have crossed these two species both ways. I am expecting to see the

result of the chrysographes and delavayi this year. The spurias and the Californians all do well here. Amongst the latter a little known species is *I. Gormanii*—a fairly new find in Oregon. It has finer and more grassy foliage than *douglasiana* and grows less rampantly. The flowers are large and usually a deep cream with brown markings. It is well worth growing and can be had from J. C. Bennett of Victoria. I have crossed this with a pink *I. tenax* and am rather pleased with some of the resulting plants. The flowers are very like the *tenax* parent, but tend to be larger and darker.

I have been rather surprised to find that *I. hexagona* has grown quite well here. It has not yet flowered, but probably will this year. I have not had much luck with *I. fulva*, but both the *fulva-foliosa* hybrids (*I. Fulvala* and *D. K. Williamson*) do well and make an interesting demonstration of the difference resulting from crossing in either direction growing side by side in the border. Both are, I think, particularly beautiful flowers.

The Japanese irises do well enough when I can give them sufficient water. They are doing splendidly at "Butcherts Gardens," Victoria, in a half-shady situation on the bank of Tod's Inlet. I have had quite good *I. laevigata* and *I. pseudacorus* and *versicolor* grow alongside my stream here. It is interesting to note that the former is said to be becoming established along the irrigation ditches in the Okanagan—the seed having been brought over from Flanders after the war.

My favorite iris and one that has done very well with me is *Hoogiana*. I do not think there is, or is likely to be, anything to beat this when it is doing really well. I find that both it and the other *Regelias* I have do about equally well whether I lift them in summer or not. Our seasons are so variable that it is always a toss up which course will answer best. The same thing is true of the *regeliocyclus* hybrids. I have done very well with them some years by lifting them; in others, I have done equally well by leaving them in the ground. Of the *onco-cyclus*, the only ones which have done consistently well with me in the open are *iberica* and *Lupina*. *Susiana* has sometimes flowered, but it is very difficult to keep it back in early spring. It is more than six inches above ground now.

* * * * *

From J. C. Bennett, Victoria, B. C.

I should be only too glad to help you as regards the behavior of irises in this part of Canada, but I am anything but an iris

specialist and know only comparatively few kinds, and my taste runs more to the dwarf species. Of such things *I. lacustris* is my favorite. Last year I had to divide a clump nearly two feet across, which was a solid mass of flowers at the time, a sight I shall never forget. It does well here even in hot places and divides easily after flowering. *I. arenaria* is also very good though its yellow flowers are rather fleeting, and I find here that the plant needs a richer soil than usually recommended. Both increase fast and do not seem to suffer from spot or other disease. *I. Clarkei*, *I. Forestii*, *I. bulleyana* are all easily grown here and sow themselves freely. *I. ruthenica* seems easy enough, though I have not had it long, but is more difficult to divide and establish. I think.



In British Columbia.

Of the American species I find only *I. bracteata* gives any difficulty, and that only in the propagation which is extremely slow and uncertain from division. *I. verna* is quite easy. All grow here in a neutral glacial soil in hot dry conditions, and rarely need water.

The few *I. pumila* varieties I grow do quite well here, but a few years ago I imported a lot of the named hybrids all of which had

to be burnt on account of spot disease which makes them too unsightly for a garden, perhaps owing to the absence of lime in this soil.

Of the bulbous irises I only know that *I. reticulata* does very well and increases fairly fast if given very dry and hot conditions after flowering. I have *I. histrioides* which flowered last year, but so far is not up although it should already be showing.

Some years ago I had a lot of *I. unguicularis* which flowered but the flowers were spoilt by rain and all the plants eventually were killed by an exceptionally hard winter, about 30 degrees of frost without snow and a high wind.

* * * * *

From P. H. Gordon, Regina.

I am afraid that you have set me rather an impossible task when you ask me to give you anything on the newer Canadian seedling irises. It must be ten years since I gave up trying to grow any of the then recent introductions as they very seldom survived the winter. Very few ever bloomed. It was not until I saw the wonderful Siberians in your garden that I realized the possibilities of this variety, which is hardy here. In the spring of 1927 we had it very warm for the first two weeks of April which started everything growing. Then on the 19th we had it 22 below zero with the result that every iris in the garden was killed.

The soil of the Regina plains is a heavy clay, commonly called "gumbo." It goes down over one hundred feet and has not an atom of grit in it. The result is that there is no drainage unless we dig in yards and yards of sand and sifted coal ashes. Besides doing this we have to raise our iris beds about a foot to give them a chance at all. The dwarf varieties are reasonably hardy but I have only grown the very old kinds. During the last two years I have had a very fair showing of the taller varieties. Last year *Ambassadeur* bloomed for the first time, *Alcazar* was very fine; *Ann Page* and *Ballerine* were particularly fine. *Dominion*, after hanging on for two years, decided to give up the effort and died. *Lord of June* was fair but the better showing was from the older varieties which you have probably discarded years ago. *Caprice* has done very well and is one of the earliest to flower. *Juniata*, *Mme. Chereau*, *Moliere*, *Pallida Dalmatica*, *Quaker Lady* have all done well but I never know when a bad spring will come along

and make me start all over again. I forgot to say that I have had Souv. de Mme. Gaudichan for years but it has never bloomed.

The Siberians are hardy but I have very few varieties and these are all old: Emperor, Orientalis, Perry's Blue and Superba.

I have long since given up trying to grow the Japanese iris. I got one to form a bud but it never opened. They invariably winter-kill.

I am afraid that these facts are not very encouraging to iris-lovers but many of us are still trying. I think in this heavy soil we can grow the finest peonies in the world but the iris is evidently too dainty to stand the rough usage it gets.

* * * * *

From Prof. Bunting, Macdonald College, P. Q.

Macdonald College has maintained a large collection of several hundred varieties of irises, mostly in the tall bearded section, but some in the dwarf bearded and the sibirica sections. There has been a surplus of plants from the nursery and Campus plantings and these have been distributed to rural homes in many parts of the Province of Quebec, mostly through the Women's Institutes, County Agronomes and Rural Schools and Churches. It is thought that among a large number of species of flowering plants produced on the College grounds the iris is one of the most popular and easiest grown and well adapted to the rural homes in this Province, and it is for this reason that a special effort in this distribution of plants has been made with the iris.

The varieties grown have proven very hardy, and with a good covering of snow winter injury has seldom been experienced. Many of the better varieties are well adapted to a wide range of soils. Some trouble has been experienced with the iris root rot, *Bacillus carotovorus*, and the root borer, *Macronoctua onusta*, but these pests have been controlled.

The season of bloom for iris species covers several months from early spring to mid-summer, with June, in this locality, being the main period of bloom. It has been noted that several writers in the Bulletin have referred to everblooming irises and to second bloom. At the College Lady Foster, a TB cypriana × pallida hybrid, has been noted as producing an abundance of bloom in August. It is thought that this tendency could be made use of in breeding to extend the season of bloom of the pogon-iris group.

Among the many fine varieties grown here it is difficult to pick out a short list of the best, but a few that may be mentioned are,—

Ambassadeur, Ann Page, Ballerine, Crusader, Eclairneur, Lord Lambourne, Mrs. Perry, Palemon, Pioneer, Queen Caterina, Rheingauferle, and Souv. de Mme. Gaudichan. In addition to these a number of varieties of Canadian origin that hold a first place among irises are Hochelaga, Lorraine Morgan and Mount Royal, originations from Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan in his gardens at Senneville, Quebec. These three varieties and other productions of Mr. Morgan's will take high rank. He has a large number of seedlings in the sibirica species that promise an interesting lot in color, as well as in size and in free blooming habit.

Macdonald College has made arrangements with the American Iris Society to establish an Iris Test Garden on the College Campus. As the situation is such that the main highways for both the automobile and the two railway lines, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways, between Montreal and Toronto, pass through the property of the College it is hoped that this Test Garden will attract many interested visitors. In addition to the Test Garden the world famous rock garden and iris plantings of Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan are only a few miles distant at Senneville.

* * * * *

From G. Dillistone, Editor The Iris Society, Tunbridge Wells.

I have just received the American Iris Society's Bulletin No. 38, and have just glanced through Mr. Franklin B. Mead's notes on new Irises seen in France and England during 1930.

Mr. Mead tells us he did not take many notes at the Iris Show and in view of the fact that he was introduced to a floor of several thousand square yards on which he saw between 400 and 500 varieties of Irises exhibited, and in his progress round the Hall was probably pulled up every two minutes to be introduced to someone, I am not surprised he got a little mixed in the notes he made.

In the first place the Orpington Iris which received a certificate of merit was "Hassan" not "Hassam."

I do not understand his reference to the "Rev. Rollo Meyer" pink seedling being selected for trial at Wisley, but I think he must be referring to the Rev. Rollo Meyer's new seedling "Ara-bella," a red purple, which received an award of merit and was also selected for trial at Wisley.

He passes on to mention the silver medal Iris which he calls "Highdown," of Major Stern. Judging from his description of it and as he compares it with Dr. Wylie Ayres' "Mrs. Hamilton

Rowan." I think he must be referring to "Blenheim" which has since nearly (but not quite), secured the award for the Dykes Medal Iris of the year.

I must also disagree with his description of "Talisman" comparing with "Golden Flare."

I note his appreciation of Mr. Perry's "G. P. Baker." This Iris has been selected as the Dykes Medal Iris of the year and I might add that the spikes shown, in addition to a number of others which Mr. Perry had in his ordinary group, were approximately 4 feet high and had eleven fully expanded perfect flowers out at one time.

I merely write this note principally to prevent two varieties getting into the check list as "Rev. Rollo Meyer" and "High-down."

The full list of Irises certificated at the Iris Show last June appear on pages 49 to 52 in our Iris Society's Year Book.*

* Columbine, Blenheim, Amber Wave, G. P. Baker, that he mentions are illustrated on pages 48, 56, 57.



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SCIENCE SERIES NO. 9

IRIS BEHAVIOR—DROUTH OF 1930

J. MARION SHULL

While rainfall lagged somewhat continuously from midsummer of 1929 and throughout the early months of 1930, the drouth, as such, may be considered to have begun following the two-inch rain of April 6, beyond which date there was no rain of consequence until June 17 when one and three-fourths inches fell, followed a couple days later by one-third of an inch, and everyone hoped that the drouth was ended.

Two inches of rain on April 6 would provide about the normal requirement for two weeks of garden growth so that the noticeable shortage of water may be considered as having begun about April 20, just when much active garden planting should have been under way.

Our garden at Chevy Chase, Maryland, is chiefly an iris garden and grows only a small list of vegetables, or of annual flowers, and so can yield no great variety of data in regard to these, but a single record from the vegetable garden may prove significant: Swiss chard, sown just prior to the heavy, beating rain of April 6, lay in the ground over-long owing to continued days of low temperature following the rain but did eventually germinate and emerge with a scant stand just before the water shortage began to be manifest.

When the respite of June 17 came these few plants were a couple inches high after two months of growth, if that term may be applied to such relative stagnation. The result of this early planting being totally inadequate, a second sowing was made to take advantage of the rain just received, and in anticipation that the drouth was at an end. This second planting germinated promptly but as no further rain came they never attained even so much as two inches in height, and presently all perished. The survivors of the early planting persisted alive but never reached a height of over five or six inches and yielded nothing whatsoever to the household supply of "greens."

At date of this writing, December 5, 1930, we have still had no rain, that is, no rain sufficient to prove effective in the growing of

plants or to add in any way to stored water in the ground. The total measurable rainfall for the month of August amounted to 0.23 inch; that for September, to 0.25 inch; for October, to 6.18 inch; and throughout November and to present date, a series of precipitation periods covering nine days all told, has yielded a total of 0.77 inch. Thus, following an almost rainless July, for which, however, I do not have exact figures, there has been a period of over four months with a total precipitation of less than one and one-half inches. How long such a record could continue without bringing about actual desert conditions is of course a matter of pure conjecture. Even such rains as are here recorded are almost immediately dissipated and never reach the entire root system of even the shallowest rooting plants.

Local water supplies, except for a few scattering deeply drilled wells and an occasional very exceptional spring, disappeared altogether and the community was put upon restricted water consumption, allowed water only for necessary household purposes for a period of some weeks as the last few inches in the reservoir went down and out, and until hasty emergency connections could be made with the recently enlarged water system of the District of Columbia, which draws its supply from the Potomac River, itself reduced beyond anything ever known but fortunately still sending a small surplus over the dam.

From the above it may be taken for granted that only a few of the choicest things in the garden, for the most part rare things newly planted in the spring, were given artificial watering, and for a time even this meant the conserving of waste water from household use in order that they might receive even this small favor. Even had there been water available for use it would have been quite impossible from ordinary hose connections to have watered the whole area adequately, so most things had to do as they best could on the scant supply afforded by nature.

The iris garden had already felt the effect of drouth in the latter half of 1929, a drouth not severe enough nor sufficiently prolonged to prevent abundant bud formation for the following spring bloom on well established plants, but sufficient to be very noticeable in its effect upon young seedlings. In normal years a 70% blooming of such seedlings is expected, but last year's drouth had cut this to about 30%. Established plants had their full complement of bloom but were noticeably affected by the current drouth, mani-

fested not only in lessened height and in smaller size of flowers, but in a paling of color of all known varieties, except of course the whites. None of them appeared quite normal and it is assumed that the new seedlings were equally affected and for this reason no attempts at evaluation were made; none were selected for keeping—and likewise none were discarded; neither was it considered wise to record for permanent use any detailed color descriptions of newly acquired varieties then blooming in the garden.

Returning for the moment to some other garden items in their reaction to the drouth, and again consulting the vegetable garden, a colony of New Zealand spinach, that doughty but serviceable weed which ordinarily self sows and therefore takes advantage of the earliest suitable date for germination, made little growth until just following the rain in June. Usually it is a dependable member of the vegetable garden, getting under way a bit slowly in the spring but yielding an abundance of "greens" throughout the summer and until severely frozen. This year but a single cutting, following the June rain, was possible. The plants remained alive and produced seed but no succulent growth for culinary use.

For some years self sown single China asters have been a feature in the summer flower garden. They too, being volunteers, come up at the earliest opportune moment. This year, where not receiving benefit from artificial watering, the plants grew into miniature rosettes a couple inches in diameter, from which arose a single stem to a height of three or four inches surmounted by one lone flower nearly of normal size. *Calendula* did little better, behaving in much the same way; and snapdragons, normally self sowing, made no appearance at all.

Among trees of the region the native dogwood and some evergreens have apparently suffered most severely. Many young hemlocks, and even some rather large specimens where growing in normally moist low lands, have died outright, and in localized areas many of the dogwoods have apparently perished while in other areas they have merely suffered serious leaf reduction through marginal burning of the leaves and will probably survive.

Whether in the spring to come the losses will be greater or less than is now apparent can not be foretold but in case of the iris so little growth has taken place since blooming time that however much rain may fall during the winter the effect of the drouth will most certainly be projected into the following year.

Speculation as to whether we should have bloom and no lateral growth next May, or the alternative of vegetative growth but no bloom, led to the digging of two of the best rhizomes of Morning Splendor in the garden for examination under the microscope. Total root growth had extended only some five or six inches from the rhizome, and careful dissection of the terminal buds disclosed no evidence whatever of the presence of flower buds, from which it may be deduced that iris bloom in the Washington area will be very scarce in 1931. There is a bare possibility that a few scattering plants that were nearly but not quite strong enough to bloom the past season may have formed buds this summer, but even these will be in doubt until actual spring growth begins.

EXHIBITIONS OF 1932

- Boston, Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Mrs. Thomas Nesmith, 166 Fairmount Street, Lowell, Massachusetts.
- Duluth, Minnesota. The Duluth Peony Society. Mrs. Conrad J. Schlamann, 730-16th Avenue, East, Duluth, Minnesota.
- Dallas, Texas. Dallas Iris Society. Spring Flower Show, April 13th and 14th. Mrs. Murrill L. Buckner, 3525 Arrowhead Drive, Dallas, Texas.
- Freeport, Illinois. The Freeport Garden Club. First week in June. Mrs. C. A. Sherman, 718 East Pleasant Street, Freeport, Illinois.
- Lincoln, Nebraska. Garden Club of Lincoln. Dr. Harry H. Everett, 1104 Sharp Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Lynchburg, Virginia. Garden Club of Lynchburg. Miss Josephine Perry Kinnier, 518 Washington Street, Lynchburg, Virginia.
- Omaha, Nebraska. The Omaha Garden Club. Mrs. Fred F. Gronseman, Route 2, Omaha, Nebraska.
- San Bernardino, California. The San Bernardino Iris Society. Mrs. L. M. Lothrop, 820 D. Street, San Bernardino, California.
- San Diego, California. San Diego Floral Association. Mrs. Paul V. Tuttle, 4143 Mississippi Street, San Diego, California.
- Washington, D. C. National Capital Dahlia and Iris Society. Dr. E. W. Sheets, 1831 Lamont Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
- Ashland, Virginia. Ashland Garden Club. Spring Flower Show about May 15th. Mrs. George B. Hutchings, "Low-wood," Ashland, Virginia.
- Redlands, California. The Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society. Miss Meda Hineckley, 10 S. University Street, Redlands, California.
- Richmond, Virginia. James River Garden Club. Spring Flower Show. Mrs. George A. Tower, 6213 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, Virginia.

Rainbow Fragments—A Garden Book of the Iris, by J. Marion Shull, Doubleday, Doran & Co., N. Y., 1931.

The first book that not only pretends but succeeds in being more than a mere book of reference for either the layman or the botanist. I need not commend Mr. Shull's clarity of expression and charm of writing to any reader of this bulletin—he is too frequent a contributor—but I can commend his treatment of garden plantings and of genetic theories to every gardener whether that individual is an iris fan or not.

I know of no other treatment of the genetic side of growing plants that can compare with this in lucidity and intelligible presentation. We achieve both an understanding of the science of gardening and of an alluring appreciation of the plants themselves and of many of the breeders who have interested themselves in the growing of irises. This last will prove of especial interest to our members and is most delightfully done.

Mr. Shull has gleaned from our symposium and records, full descriptions of some sixty-four deserving varieties and tabular descriptions of some three hundred others. To me, despite his efforts to include only highly rated varieties, our progress is such that I feel the effort wasted in a book of such superlative quality. Incidentally his text deals with Tall Bearded Irises only.

In typography, illustration, and presentation the book is good. I am glad that "Iris" has won such recognition in the publishing and garden world.

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY ANNOUNCES REVISED POLICY OF AWARDS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HONORABLE MENTION

First: At Exhibitions in cooperation with American Iris Society.

Group V Class 24

Irises raised from seed by the exhibitor but not introduced into commerce.

(Note: If the raiser is unable to be present, he may request another person to exhibit seedlings for him, in which case, if an

award is made, it will be sent to the raiser instead of to the exhibitor.)

Any one exhibitor may enter not over five seedlings for award. No prize but A. I. S. certificates of Honorable Mention may be recommended for seedlings rated at over 80, *if, in the opinion of the accredited judges, they are of sufficient outstanding merit to warrant such a recommendation*, but the number of H. M's. so recommended in any one show shall not exceed five. (As the Society does not authorize prizes for seedlings, none may be offered by individuals or clubs at any show receiving the cooperation of the A. I. S.)

Recommendations for H. M. shall be sent to the Committee on Awards.

(See scale of points for seedlings, Bulletin 22, pages 6-7).

Second: Besides these recommendations for H. M's. at exhibitions in cooperation with the A. I. S., it is proposed to recommend additional H. M's. under the following conditions:—

1. Accredited judges may visit flower shows, gardens, or nurseries, etc. and rate new Irises, which will include unintro-duced seedlings and those varieties introduced the year of the judging and the year previous to the judging. They may then send such ratings and recommendations for H. M's. to the Committee on Awards.

2. Such judges may rate as many Irises as they wish but may not recommend more than five for H. M. in any one region.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

All recommendations and ratings received under the above conditions shall be compiled by the Committee on Awards, which committee shall then have the power to give H. M's. Besides H. M's. awarded to Irises shown at official exhibitions, not more than five additional H. M's. may be given in each region to Irises which have received sufficient rating from three or more accredited judges.

Accredited judges in the various official regions shall be selected by the Board of Directors and the list published yearly by the Committee on Awards.

The Committee on Awards shall be selected by the President subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

AWARDS OF MERIT

Hereafter not more than five Awards of Merit may be given yearly by the Committee on Awards, subject to confirmation of Board of Directors, acting upon the recommendations of the accredited judges.

To be eligible for an A. M. an Iris shall first have been on the recommended list the previous year, and second, shall be rated at 85 or more and recommended by five or more accredited judges.

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

The Iris Society of England has offered to the American Iris Society one Dykes Memorial Medal yearly. This is the highest award that can be given to a new Iris. This is to be given only by vote of Board of Directors from among the Irises on the recommended list of the previous year.

AS THE IRIS IS PRIMARILY A GARDEN FLOWER THE ATTENTION OF JUDGES IS CALLED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF VIGOR OF GROWTH, FREEDOM OF BLOOM AND CARRYING QUALITY OF THE COLOR, WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE AS VALUE OF INDIVIDUAL FLOWER.

NOTE

As these new regulations require two years judging for A. M's. or the Dykes medal, they eliminate such awards in 1931. Therefore, as this would be discriminating against our members who in good faith have sent plants to our trial gardens for judging in 1931. a silver medal and awards of merit MAY be given at the trial this season (1931), should varieties receive high enough rating.

The following persons have been asked to serve on Committee on Awards but acceptances have not been received up to the time of going to press.

J. B. Wallace, Jr., New Haven, Conn.

Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham, New Rochelle, N. Y.

Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, Ardmore, Pa.

Sherman Duffy, Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. W. L. Karcher, Freeport, Ill.

Mrs. Silas B. Waters, Cincinnati, Ohio.

C. G. White, Redlands, Calif.

CERTIFICATES?

It has been suggested that our Iris breeders would be glad to have either a printed or engraved certificate with each seedling they register with the society. Such certificate would be suitable for framing and would of course be a constant pride to the raiser of the Iris.

Our Committee on Registrations has wondered whether the breeders would be interested in this, and if so whether they would be willing to pay a nominal price of 50 cents. \$1.00 or \$2.00 for such certificates.

All persons interested are invited to write to the chairman of the Committee on Registrations and Introductions, Mr. Charles E. F. Gersdorff, 1825 N. Capitol Street, Washington, D. C. If enough breeders wish this, steps will be taken to have such certificate prepared.

LANTERN SLIDES AND LECTURES

Through the good work of Mrs. Peckham our collection of slides has been markedly increased and brought up-to-date. Each has been duly labeled and the collection has been arranged in sets of 60 to 100 slides to accompany printed lectures if such are desired.

FEES \$10.00, plus transportation and insurance on the value of \$300.

Four Lectures in pamphlet form. \$1.00 to members; to non-members, \$2.00.

One subject separate, to members 25c each; to non-members 50c each.

The slides may be used with, or without the following lectures:

No. 1. THE IRIS. R. S. Sturtevant.

No. 2. CHRONICLE OF AMERICAN IRISES. Dr. John K. Small, with notes on the western natives by E. A. S. Peckham.

No. 3. HISTORY OF BEARDED IRISES. J. C. Wister.

No. 4. THE WILD GARDEN. R. S. Sturtevant.

In each case Mrs. Peckham has edited and enlarged articles previously printed and has inserted the numbers of the lantern slides in the text, a most valuable contribution.

APPLICATIONS should be made, *in advance*, to Mrs. Katherine Leigh, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.

IRIS! !

Our catalog listing more than 500
irises will be ready March 15.

Send for free copy.

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FINE HEALTHY IRIS

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Introducer of Mohr-Mitchell Iris
646 Woodmont Ave.,
Berkeley, Calif.

THE IRIS SOCIETY

(of England)

Application for membership in The Iris Society may be sent direct to the American Iris Society office. Make check for dues (\$2.85) payable to American Iris Society; send it to SCIENCE PRESS PRINTING Co., Lime & Green Streets, Lancaster, Pa. Mark it plainly "For dues for The Iris Society (of England)" and print your name and address.

BULBOUS IRIS

RARE SPECIES

BUCHARICA. Native of Bokhara. Yellow flowers, blooming from the axis of each leaf, resembling a miniature corn stalk. Very interesting species. \$2.50 each.

PAVONIA (Peacock Iris). Botanically known as *Moraea Glaucomis*. Native of South Africa. 50c each.

RETICULATA. Pretty dwarf species. Dark blue. Bloom early. \$1.00 each.

TUBEROSA (*Hermodyctylus tuberosus*) "Snake-head" Iris. Flowers green- and purplish-black, \$1.00 each.

Collection of 1 of each—\$4.25.

Illustrated Catalog of Rare Iris and Iris Seed Free on Request.

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CAMPBELL, CALIF.

IRISES

Aliquippa, Chartier

Silver Medal winners

Lodestar—Award of Merit
Edgewood, Montour, Elsinore and other varieties

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Ingomar, Pa.

J. MARION SHULL,

Artist—Plant Breeder specializing in Iris.

207 Raymond St., Chevy Chase, Md.

Introductions include Coppersmith, Elaine, Julia Marlowe, L'Aiglon, Moon Magic (1931), Morning Splendor, Nocturne, Sequoiah, Tropic Seas.

Author of "Rainbow Fragments, A Garden Book of the Iris," 1931.

American Iris Society Bulletin

R. S. STURTEVANT, Editor

GROTON, MASS.

Published in the interest of
Iris Growers

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The American Rose Society Invites

Members of the American Iris Society who also enjoy roses to unite with it in improving and furthering the enjoyment of roses throughout the world.

The American Rose Annual, sent to each member every year, describes all the new roses and is packed with information and inspiration for rose growers.

The American Rose Quarterly deals with current exhibitions, meetings, rose pilgrimages, roster of members, etc.

"What Every Rose Grower Should Know," the Society's book of instructions for rose-growing, is sent to each member.

The Committee of Consulting Rosarians will give free advice on all rose subjects.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Until the present issue of the New Peony Manual is exhausted the Directors of the American Peony Society have reduced the price to \$3.15, delivered. This is a reduction of 50% from former price and was prompted to meet present conditions and make it possible for every garden lover to obtain a copy, which at present price is below cost of production.

This manual is the greatest book of its kind and will prove of great value to any peony admirer. Membership in the American Peony Society, four splendid bulletins, together with the peony manual for \$6.00.

Act quick if you desire a manual as at this low price we expect to soon dispose of the balance of books on hand. Address all communications and remittances to,

W. F. Christman, Secretary,
American Peony Society,
Northbrook, Ill.

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Correspondence invited

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DYKES ON IRISES

A Reprint of the contributions of the late W. R. Dykes, L-es-L., to various journals and periodicals during the last twenty years of his life.

Published by The Iris Society (England)

Compiled and edited by GEORGE DILLISTONE.

This book contains 280 pages of Articles, Notes and Comments on species and varieties of Irises written by Mr. Dykes between 1905 and 1925. These have been collected and edited, and are now republished with the permission of the various publications in which they originally appeared. The writings are so full of useful information, much of which is unobtainable from any other source, that it was felt essential to arrange them in permanent form for the use of all Iris lovers.

A committee consisting of Mr. G. P. Baker, Mr. G. L. Pilkington and Mr. George Dillistone have had charge of all arrangements of the publication and were able to raise a guaranty fund to provide the cost of publication.

The collection is a fitting tribute to the man who penned its contents at various times under ever changing circumstances. Throughout the years during which they were written, it is possible to trace the results of first impressions subsequently confirmed or modified.

The ground covered by these writings can be estimated by the fact that the book contains 12 pages of Index in which there are approximately 2,000 references.

By arrangement with The Iris Society (England) The American Iris Society is to be the sole distributor of this book in the United States. As the number of copies allotted to this country is limited, early application is advisable.

The price of the book to the general public is \$4, plus 10 cents postage. Special price to the members of the American Iris Society and of the Iris Society of England is \$3.50 plus ten cents postage.

Send all applications to

SCIENCE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY,
Lime & Green Streets.
Lancaster, Pa.

Make checks payable to The American Iris Society.

IRIS

INTRODUCTIONS

for 1931

Desert Dawn
Mountain Mist
Rusty Gold
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To You!

Since you are a member of The American Iris Society, it need not be pointed out that you are a rather special sort of gardener, a person with more than average vision and imagination. As such a gardener of course you look for special things in all garden fields. Have you discovered the NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE, published quarterly by The American Horticultural Society?

It is the special garden quarterly in America, written for persons like yourself, not for the dull who need a program, not for the horticulturally blind and lame who need second-hand sight and verbal crutches, but for the intelligent who like to read, who like to study, who prefer a new word or two regularly, who have courage not to follow fashion too blindly, who believe in gardening as much for the delights of mind and spirit as for the cultural blue ribbons of the shows. Try sending three dollars to Mr. D. Victor Lumsden, Secretary, 1629 Columbia Road, Washington, D. C. It will bring you iris notes and much else.

Quality Gardens

Catalog for 1931 contains full page color plates of Depute Nomblot, Indian Chief, Zaharoon, W. R. Dykes, Pluie D'or, Pink Satin and many other reproductions in color and half tone. A charge of 35 cents is made for this catalog. This may be deducted from an order of \$3.00 or more. A limited number are printed.

This issue lists about 225 of the best varieties in commerce and about 20 of the finest of the hundreds of new introductions. It will save you money, as our prices are low and the stock first class. You will not have to struggle with a list of 1,000 or more varieties to find the best ones. We have done that for you.

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Collection of Hardy but less common iris—\$5.00 delivered

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Zwanenburg
Saturn

The first six are pogonocyclus the last a regelio-cyclus.

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Southern California Iris Gardens
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TWO VERY FINE IRIS NOVELTIES from Prof. Hill and Mr. E. G. Lapham are offered in my 1931 Catalog. Also more than 200 modern including some of the finer older varieties are listed in this new descriptive Iris Catalog which will be sent to you at your request.

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Our list of 300 Iris ready.
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NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The 1931 Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, at 10 A. M., in the Horticultural Building, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Prof. W. T. Macoun, chief, Dominion Horticulturists, will welcome the members and after the meeting will conduct them through the various experimental plantings of this great government experiment station where, in addition to fruit breeding, much work has been conducted with ornamental plants. The Iris collection will, of course, be the center of interest, but many of our members will doubtless also enjoy the Lilacs, Loniceras, Roses, Peonies and other plants.

Later in the afternoon several nearby private gardens and nurseries will be visited and then the party will leave, by train or motor, for Montreal.

On Tuesday, June 16, there will be a visit to the garden of Mr. Cleveland Morgan, near Montreal, where one of the best collections of Iris in Canada is to be seen. It is planned, also, to visit other gardens.

In addition to this two-day meeting, some members are planning to visit Iris collections in Ontario on June 13 and 14 on the way to Ottawa, and to see other gardens in the Province of Quebec on June 17.

Additional details concerning these places, hotels, train schedules and motor routes, and any notice of change of date caused by an early or a late season, will be sent *only* to those members *who notify the secretary by June 1* of their probable intention to attend the meeting.

As this will be our first meeting in Canada, and as our Canadian friends will have many splendid Irises to show us, it is hoped that many of our members will make an effort to attend the meeting and help make it a success. The very late date makes it possible for most of our members to complete the Iris season in their own gardens before leaving home. Many will undoubtedly stop at the Boston Iris Show (June 10 and 11) on the way north.

J. B. WALLACE, JR., *Secretary.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As Parliament will probably be in session hotel accommodations will be *very difficult* to obtain in Ottawa. Members are advised to spend Sunday night on train or in some nearby town, and Monday night in Montreal. Apply to the Secretary for further information.